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BICKNELL  
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BY IVO TENNANT

ORDS (first day) ...  
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THERE was a ...  
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Not at any ...  
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the Newbury by-election and ...  
Kent

As the Euro-sceptics ...  
Kent

A forensic ...  
Kent

page 38

CONCO



## TENDER THATCHER

A softer view of  
the Iron Lady

Scotch and sympathy, Weekend: 1, 2



## INSIDER DEALING

Stock Exchange says  
rules are not working

Business, page 21



## JANE MACQUITTY

Simple cellarer's  
guide to wine bids

Weekend, page 5

WEEKEND  
MONEY  
Four pages  
25-28

# THE TIMES

No. 64,639

SATURDAY MAY 8 1993

50p

## Shell-shocked Tories call leadership into question

By PHILIP WEBSTER  
CHIEF POLITICAL  
CORRESPONDENT

JOHN Major's leadership was called into question last night amid a wave of recriminations over the Conservative party's most calamitous electoral showing for decades.

Only a year after his triumphant election victory the prime minister was being urged by ministers and MPs to take a grip on his government and policies.

As he faced his worst crisis of confidence since taking over as Tory leader in 1990 Mr Major came under renewed pressure from demoralised MPs to use an early cabinet reshuffle to drop Norman Lamont and bring in new blood to revive the government's fortunes.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer was again emerging as the favoured sacrifice of shell-shocked Tory MPs casting around for explanations for the government's rout in

### Jobs lost at base

Nearly 580 civilian jobs in John Major's constituency were put at risk yesterday with the announcement that the Americans are to close down their operations at RAF Alconbury in Cambridgeshire. The base employs 479 defence ministry civilians, including 11 police officers, and 97 US-employed civilians.

the Newbury by-election and the shire county elections. But their calls for the removal of Mr Lamont were being widely interpreted as coded criticisms of the prime minister himself.

As the Euro-sceptics blamed his attachment to Maastricht for the government's dreadful performance, loyalist ministers voiced fears that Mr Major's Euro-enemies would exploit his vulnerability to try to organise a leadership challenge against him.

While it was regarded as unlikely that they could raise anything like the level of support needed to mount a formal campaign, senior backbenchers feared that even an attempted challenge would lead to civil war in the party at Westminster.

A forensic ...  
Kent



Morning after: Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, relives a triumphant night with David Rendell, Newbury's new MP, and his wife, Sue

Tories' secret weapon is loyalty, Bill Cash and his chums have a damned funny way of showing it," he wrote in the *London Evening Standard*.

Mr Lamont responded last night with a speech in which he pledged that the economy was well-placed for sustained growth. He denied in Birmingham that he had been "triumphalist" in proclaiming the end of the recession, but acknowledged that the elections had given the government another clear reminder of the pain and difficulties of the recession.

Senior ministers close to Mr Major admitted that one fac-

tor in the county elections had been the perceived weakness of the prime minister to hold together a party torn apart by Maastricht. The treaty was hardly in itself an issue in the elections but voters were angry over the apparent obsession of the political world with Maastricht at a time when they felt its attention should have been on the economy, ministers from the Tory benches said.

Mr Major said there were "no excuses" for the Tory performance which saw them lose control of all the shire counties except Buckinghamshire and suffer defeat at Newbury by the sensationally

wide margin of 22,055, one of their worst by-election displays since the second world war.

It was a superb night for the Liberal Democrats who took Newbury, won control of Somerset and Cornwall, and had a net gain of 381 seats. Labour, starting from a stronger base, also exceeded expectations, taking control of Northamptonshire to bring a total of 14 counties under its domination, and gaining 92 seats across the country.

After talking over the results with Sir Norman Fowler, the Conservative chairman, at 6.15am the prime minister faced the press at the first

opportunity to admit: "People were determined to give the government a bloody nose and that, in practice, is what they did last night."

Michael Colvin, Tory MP for Romney and Watcombe, said: "Mr Lamont is now a political liability. I think he should be sacked - his time is up." Mr Lamont was not the only minister in the firing line. John Patten, the education secretary, was being urged to bow to pressure to drop this summer's tests of 14-year-olds which are bringing the government into conflict with parents as well as teachers.

The first test of backbench

loyalty, and resolve, will come on Monday when the Commons debates the budget plans to impose VAT on fuel bills, a big source of unpopularity during the elections.

John Smith, the Labour leader, and Paddy Ashdown, for the Liberal Democrats, rejected the idea of a formal alliance to take on the Tories, but their parties accepted the reality of informal deals.

Election round-up, pages 2 and 3  
Tories and Democrats, page 16  
Leading article and diary, page 17

## Mackay crosses green line for talks on fugitive Nadir

By ANGELA MACKAY AND MICHAEL THEODOULOU

LORD Mackay, the Lord Chancellor, has crossed the "green line" dividing Cyprus to make an unprecedented personal request to the Turkish side for the return of Asil Nadir, the fugitive businessman, to Britain.

The United Kingdom's most senior legal officer met Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish Cypriot leader, on Thursday night, a day after he had rejected a similar demand by David Dain, the British high commissioner in Nicosia.

A British official said: "Mr Denktaş said he understood the points Lord Mackay made, but explained that as Britain did not recognise Northern Cyprus and there was no extradition treaty, there was no legal way he could hand Mr Nadir over."

He added: "There are substantive daily contacts to underline our message that we want Mr Nadir returned. We're letting them know it's a problem that won't go away."

The atmosphere at Lord Mackay's meeting with Mr Denktaş, which took place in a room at the former British high commission, was described as "good, but very serious indeed."

Later, Lord Mackay, in a sombre mood, left for a private dinner in Nicosia. But if diplomatic tensions were running high, it was impossible to judge when he, Mr Dain, and Mr Denktaş were thrown together again at a social function at which it is understood the Nadir issue was not raised.

The Lord Chancellor, in Cyprus by sheer coincidence to attend a Commonwealth lawyers' conference, is due to leave the island today as he had planned before the Nadir fiasco blew up.

Mr Nadir, the founder and former chairman of Polly Peck, the collapsed fresh fruit,

hotels and electronics group jumped bail of £3.5 million when he fled secretly to Cyprus via France and Turkey on Tuesday night. He had been charged with theft of more than £30 million from the company.

In London yesterday, Commander Onhon, the Turkish ambassador, was called to the Foreign Office and asked by Tristan Garel-Jones, a minister of state, to help return Mr Nadir to British jurisdiction. Mr Garel-Jones said the matter was of great urgency and importance. Mr Onhon said



Mackay: sombre mood after meeting

he would try to have an answer from Ankara by Monday. Mr Nadir, at his first press conference in Cyprus, levelled a series of extraordinary allegations against the British government and its legal system which, he said, had forced him to flee.

He declared: "I do assure you it wasn't an easy decision to leave Great Britain, knowing as I do the consequences of jumping bail. But the chances of me receiving a fair trial were receding by the day. Ladies

Continued on page 2, col 4

Letters, page 17

## Owen calls for US troops in Bosnia

By TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE AND MICHAEL EVANS

AMERICAN troops should be sent to Bosnia to assist the United Nations aid operation, Lord Owen, the international peace negotiator, said in London yesterday, adding that such a move would "demonstrate Washington's commitment to ending the war".

America has so far refused to send ground troops to Bosnia, which has provoked criticism by Britain and France. Both countries are reluctant to support US calls for air strikes or other military intervention because of the potential risk to their aid-escorting troops.

Lord Owen said: "If the United States wants to have a firmer response and a greater involvement, there could be no more powerful statement than to make available two, three or four thousand contributors to the [UN] force with a humanitarian mandate."

US aircraft are flying aid into Bosnia and helping to enforce the no-fly zone. America also has warships in the Adriatic to enforce sanctions. But, on the ground in Bosnia, there are only a dozen staff officers at the UN protection force headquarters at Kiseljak.

A senior UN official said yesterday that planning had already begun to implement Thursday's security council

resolution declaring Sarajevo and the Muslim enclaves of Gorazde, Zepa, and Bihać the town of Tuzla to be UN "safe areas". But Cedric Thornberry, deputy head of the UN in former Yugoslavia, gave a warning that the 9,000 UN troops in Bosnia were already



Owen: move would show commitment

stretched and going through "an extremely dangerous time". Of the proposed increase of 50 in the size of the UN force, he said with some irony: "That's very nice."

Charities accused, page 9  
Clinton wrath, page 14  
Simon Jenkins, page 16  
Letters, page 17

## Couple die in store fire

By STEWART TENDLER

FIRE investigators were last night examining how a blaze broke out in the busy Littlewoods store in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, sending smoke billowing over shoppers and killing an elderly couple.

Staff and shoppers were rescued by firemen from window ledges. Thirty-four people were taken to hospital, mainly suffering shock and smoke inhalation. One person was reported to be in a serious condition.

Fire officers confirmed the store did not have sprinklers for which there is no legal requirement. The store did have a current fire certificate and an automatic fire alarm connected to the fire service.

The elderly couple, who have not been named, died on the first floor, where the fire is thought to have started. They were found together near an escalator. The man may have been disabled.

Littlewoods promised to take any necessary steps to improve safety in their other stores.

No sprinklers, page 5

## Fountain closed by Legionnaires scare

By JAMES LANDALE

THE fountains in Trafalgar Square were turned off yesterday after a man died from Legionnaires' disease in central London. Two other people who were infected have recovered from the disease, which usually spreads through airborne water vapour.

Environmental health officers from Westminster council have ordered 43 buildings in the Leicester Square area to close their water-cooled air-conditioning systems until they have been cleaned and disinfected. Hospitals have been put on the alert but they have found no new cases.

"The fountain at Trafalgar Square has been emptied as a precautionary measure, at the request of Westminster City Council," a spokesman for the National Heritage department said. "But there is no suggestion that the fountains are the source of infection." The death comes after a similar outbreak in the Piccadilly Circus area killed five people in 1989.

Companies face prosecution and compensation claims if an outbreak starts in their air-conditioning systems. In 1991 a taxi driver sued the BBC for £26,000 after it was proved that he caught the disease while driving past BBC

Broadcasting House during a Legionnaires' epidemic in 1988, in which three people died and 90 were infected. The three people affected by the recent outbreak, who have not been named, all visited the Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus area some days before the disease took effect between April 4 and April 13. One man died on April 18 but two others have been released from hospital.

Westminster council assured the public that it was safe to work in and visit Leicester Square/Piccadilly Circus and described the link between the disease and the area as "tentative".

The council started testing the water systems for the bacteria last Tuesday and expects to have confirmed results within two weeks. It routinely inspects all water air-conditioning systems twice a year. However, since April 1, any premises with such a system must register with the local authority under new regulations of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Although the source of the bacteria was unknown, a council spokeswoman said legal action could follow if guidelines laid down by the act had been broken.

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## Newbury's dyed-in-the-wool Conservatives vent fury over government's mistakes

## Major strikes an upbeat pose

By JOHN SHAW

THE sun was shining, the weekend beckoned, and John Major was trying desperately hard to sound upbeat in the wake of his disastrous "bloody nose" at Newbury.

The prime minister spent the day in his home territory of Cambridgeshire, which had slipped from the Tories' grasp to become a hung Labour-Lib Dem authority. And at the offices of Arthur Andersen in Cambridge, he launched an immediate counter-attack.

It was a bloody nose, he admitted to reporters, but it was also a reaction to the recession. That said, he and Mrs Major climbed into their official Jaguar to examine the area's sprouting green shoots. First came a visit to Marshalls of Cambridge, a group with sales of £250 million a year. The firm, employing 2,750, is



Pause for talk: reporters confront a seemingly untroubled John Major during his "green shoots" tour of Cambridge yesterday

## 'The whole country can't be wrong - we had better listen'

By ARTHUR LEATHLEY

JULIAN Davidson will be desperate to forget yesterday's dawn chorus. As first light fell on Newbury, the racecourse centre that staged the by-election count resounded to Liberal Democrat chants of "Easy, Easy."

Had the crestfallen Tory candidate sought solace in West Berkshire Conservative Club, he would have met little but antagonism — and a remarkable sprinkling of the protest voters who had inflicted his humiliating defeat.

At midnight on Thursday, Newbury Conservatives gathered together in despondency as Liberal Democrats cheered the stream of councils slipping away from Tory control. By noon, the Conservative bar in

## Loyal Tories in Newbury are in little doubt that the prime minister should bear personal responsibility for defeat

Newbury was seething with invective against John Major. Mr Davidson, Norman Lamont and most of the cabinet. Dyed-in-the-wool Conservatives vented their fury on the government and prime minister for ignoring public opinion.

"He is dictatorial, out of touch and refuses to listen to what anyone says. The government has got so arrogant that they think they can never be wrong. Well, Newbury and the whole country can't be wrong and they had better take that message and do

something about it," said Bolger-Ernis Castledon-Brown. "In 13 months, John Major has set back the cause of the Tory party more than anyone has done for 50 years," said Douglas Biggs.

Others admitted that they had not supported Mr Davidson, in protest at the government's record since the election.

David Rendel's victorious Liberal Democrat cavalcade basked in the sunshine and in the glory of Thursday night's extraordinary events. The over-cautious Liberal camp

had begun to betray optimism four hours before their golden moment arrived soon after 4am, as predictions of the scale of victory flattered around the Berkshire Suite counting station.

Crude estimates of the majority, based on the piles of the long voting papers lying on counting tables, rattled through the thousands. A guess of 3,000 quickly tumbled as 5,000 tripped off the tongue, first as rumour, then as unconfirmed fact.

The estimate stuck defiantly at 8,000 until word-of-mouth elevated it into five figures two hours before the declaration. That seemed enough to satiate the media's appetite for sensation.

When the figure reached 22,000, the waiting hordes

could only guffaw at the idiocy of such a projection. The laughter soon subsided into stunned silence.

Even Paddy Ashdown became confused when told of the huge majority. He initially assumed that the 22,000 figure was a disappointingly low level of support for his party, although even that would have defeated the Tories comfortably. When Mr Ashdown strode into town in celebration yesterday, he was certain that an era of consensus government beckoned.

However, the briefly famous Newbury electorate seemed less certain that it wanted all that political and media attention.

Challenge to Major, page 1  
Leading article, page 17

## Tortoise transforms into hare

By NICHOLAS WOOD  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

DAVID Rendel won not only the Newbury by-election but also a personal tussle with Julian Davidson, his Conservative opponent.

Mr Rendel, 44, an old Etonian, made a hesitant start, appearing initially as a somewhat wooden figure, ill at ease with the out and thrust of the London media. But as the Liberal Democrat campaign

gathered momentum and Mr Davidson stumbled over the Budget, crime and the disputed inquest into the recession, the centre party candidate grew in confidence.

By the end of the second week, Mr Rendel was able to move smoothly through Newbury market, finding well-wishers at every turn. The weekend opinion poll suggest-

ing that he was heading for a handsome victory boosted his confidence and that of his canvassers.

Mr Rendel, a full-time Newbury town councillor for six years and a former management consultant, had twice fought the seat at a general election. His strong local roots were an additional asset. So was the role of his wife Susan, as a family doctor in the town.

Mr Davidson, 30, a director of his family firm, was a surprise choice as the Tory candidate. He was selected by the local party in preference to John Maples, the polished former Treasury minister who lost his south London seat at the general election.

Mr Davidson, a member of Somerset County Council since 1989, was handicapped by his lack of local links. He made a promising initial impression as he presented himself as the man to keep the local and national economic recovery on track.

He found it hard to maintain this bullish tone once the Institute of Directors challenged his assertion that the recovery was the result of government economic policy and not of its reversal last September when the pound was devalued. He also wobbled over Budget decisions to extend VAT to domestic fuel bills and to raise national insurance.

Mr Davidson's reluctance to take his campaign to the doorstep and to tangle with discredited Tory voters also became a campaign issue.

## Leaders give hint of closer co-operation

By JILL SHERMAN  
AND SHERA GUNN

JOHN Smith and Paddy Ashdown yesterday ruled out any formal electoral pacts while accepting that their parties would work much closer together in local government.

The Labour leader said that the council elections, in which his party gained 93 seats, proved that Labour was the only alternative party of government. "This shows that those who still claim that Labour cannot win the next general election by itself are talking nonsense," Mr Smith said.

"The Liberal Democrats may have won in Newbury but Labour won in the country," Mr Smith, who claimed that Labour had done much better than it had anticipated, dismissed suggestions that the only way to remove the Tories from power was to have pacts with the Liberals. "I don't need to be persuaded not to go into pacts because we are not in favour of going into them anyway," he said at a press conference at Transport House.

Margaret Beckett, deputy Labour leader and a strong opponent of proportional representation, said: "We are now the only alternative government on any measure you like."

Mr Ashdown also dismissed the idea of formal pacts but said that he saw the election results as an endorsement of his view that Britain was

moving towards a more pluralist political system, requiring "partnerships" between a range of parties, and away from two-party control.

Mr Ashdown later insisted that co-operation between the parties on local councils worked. "Of course that will happen — and it will happen increasingly in the future," he said.

Tony Newton, leader of the Commons, interviewed on BBC Radio 4's *The World at One*, said that where hung councils had occurred, the best thing for all parties involved was to "look at working together in a way that is best for the people in the county in the new circumstances".

Earlier, Jack Straw, Labour's local government spokesman, challenged Michael Howard, environment secretary, to clarify his party's position on pacts. "Will you now be issuing advice to Conservative groups not to enter into any arrangements with other parties? If not, what criteria will you set out for pacts and deals with other parties?"

Liberal Democrat aides privately expect an increase in many areas in "understandings" between Liberal Democrat and Labour activists to oust the Conservatives.

But they rule out any prospect of a more formal anti-Tory alliance.

## Bookies still bet on Tory win at general election

John Major sounded appropriately humble yesterday. Democracy, he said, is "there to tell governments when people are concerned". That was in contrast to his dismissive remarks after the Tories' defeat at Ribbles Valley two years ago about the Liberal Democrats being a dustbin for protest votes.

The public, he argued, was "determined to give the government a bloody nose". But are the Tories' wounds more serious than that? And do they require drastic remedies? "The Tories' rout in Newbury and in the county elections cannot be dismissed as just a passing setback. At the next general election the Tories might even recapture Newbury, though David Rendel, its new Liberal Democrat MP, has plenty of time to dig himself in. Nonetheless, the scale of Tory losses has a message for Mr Major, as he recognised yesterday. It is not inevitable that the Tories will reverse all of their losses."

There will also be a flurry of speculation about a leadership challenge, although that need not be taken seriously this year. The key test for Mr Major will come next year after the local elections and the Euro-elections. If Tory fortunes have not improved within 18 months, he could be in serious trouble.

Thursday's results were more than just a protest against the Tory record. Labour did well, improving on an already strong showing in 1989. The party now has the largest number of county councillors and has achieved gains in some of its target parliamentary seats.

Labour was the outright winner. That enabled John Smith to claim, almost defiantly, that Labour could win the next general election by itself with the clear message that it needed no help from the Liberal Democrats. So talk of co-operation, let alone pacts, was ruled out.

However, both Mr Smith and Margaret Beckett seemed to be protesting a little too much. They cannot ignore the Liberal Democrats and pretend that Britain has returned to a two-party system. It has not. Many voters, especially in the rural areas and small towns of southern England, continue to regard the Liberal Democrats rather than Labour as the main alternative to the Tories.

The government's current unpopularity runs deep. Through out the Tory heartlands, many normally loyal supporters stayed at home or deserted. The MORI poll for *The Times* a week ago provided several pointers to Thursday's results. Although the end of the recession has boosted optimism, it has not yet revived the low ratings of the government and Mr Major. The events of the past year have left deep scars. The government has appeared weak. While personally liked, the prime minister is no longer respected by many.

The reaction of Tory leaders yesterday was predictable: the results were a vote about the past. So the party should keep its nerve and wait for the government to deliver sustained economic recovery. There was no suggestion of a fundamental change of direction. The government has little choice but to persevere with Maastricht.

The Tories' predicament

is, however, about more than the state of the economy. The word from Tory MPs is that Mr Major, and the government, need to show a firmer grip and lead. There is inevitably also talk about the need for a reshuffle in July. Until now, Mr Major has wanted to leave heads of departments in place. Changes could also create rather than resolve problems, and leave an impression of panic. But political pressures over the next few weeks could force a shuffle.

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A divided opposition offers some consolation to Mr Major. While the weekend press is sure to make dire reading for him, the bookies still reckon the Tories will win the next general election.

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## Nadir defends Cyprus flight

Continued from page 1  
and gentlemen, nobody can live without hope. Sadly, the authorities had, during the past 2½ years, demolished my hope of receiving a fair trial. I had to have freedom to move, to think, to talk.

"They had killed that, and so I came here, so that I could at long last obtain for myself the basic human right to

defend myself." Among his list of accusations was a claim that the Serious Fraud Office was so desperate to find evidence to support the charges of theft against him that it encouraged a separate criminal investigation into allegations that there was a conspiracy to try to bribe court officials involved in the case.

Scotland Yard yesterday confirmed that an investigation was being conducted into allegations that associates of Mr Nadir had set up a secret £3.5 million fund with which to bribe Mr Justice Tucker. There is no suggestion, however, that the judge was contacted by the alleged plotters.

Earlier yesterday on Greek Cypriot television, Lord MacKay rejected criticism of the legal system made by Mr

Nadir when he fled. The mystery surrounding Mr Nadir's departure continued yesterday when it emerged that Ramadan Guney, the wealthy Turkish Cypriot cemetery owner, made an application to the Old Bailey last week to withdraw his story for £1 million of Mr Nadir's £3.5 million bail.

Mr Guney, said by the Serious Fraud Office to have tipped it off early on Sunday morning that Mr Nadir was likely to flee, withdrew his application just an hour before it was supposed to be heard by the recorder. Neither he nor his solicitor would comment yesterday, but a spokesman for the Old Bailey confirmed the sequence of events.

Letters, page 17

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**TURKEY**



as one night of upheaval overturns decades of entrenched power in the counties

## Hung councils leave local politicians haggling over deals

BY RACHEL KELLY  
SHEILA GUNN  
JONATHAN PEYNN AND  
ARTHUR LEATHLEY

Many county authorities that were once solid Conservative now face the unhappy prospect of sharing power

COUNCILLORS swallowed their political pride yesterday and began talking with opposition members about sharing power in the record 28 local authorities left without one party exerting control.

Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors in particular will need to haggle over their working arrangements. Key bargaining points will be nominations to the Association of County Councils, which is most likely to be hung with Labour the largest single party, the chairmanships of committees, and the main policy changes.

However, many of the gainers in the main parties indicated yesterday that they would try to go it alone in the short term without overall control, rather than negotiate a pact with other parties.

County hall in Bedford was fielding calls from neighbouring former Tory citadels that fell to no overall control in Thursday night's bloodbath. The unexpected result in Bedfordshire into a kind of councils' advice bureau for authorities where Tory control has always been taken for granted.

Bedfordshire is well placed to give tips. Apart from a brief period of Tory control in the early 1980s, no party has had an outright majority there for 20 years and this week brought no change to that basic political fact of life. The Tories were able to set the budget this year with the help of a group of rebel Labour councillors.

Paddy Ashdown, the Liberal Democrat leader, predicted a good working arrangement between the parties in councils with no overall control. "In that sense this will have marked an important change towards a culture of co-operation which my party is determined to be at the centre of," he said. "The public is

beginning to understand that co-operation between parties provides better government."

In Berkshire, Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors will hold urgent talks over the weekend to decide the terms of their working arrangements for running the county council. The two parties formed an unofficial pact last year after ending the Conservatives' 103-year rule.

In Avon, Labour remains the biggest single party in a hung council but has fallen well short of its hoped-for majority.

With none of the parties making a decisive breakthrough, all three group leaders agreed yesterday morning that the power sharing system that has operated in the county for the past four years is likely to continue through to the demise of the authority in three years. Pat Hockley, the Liberal Democrat leader, left open the door for a possible alternative arrangement but firmly ruled out any formal pacts with Labour.

In Gloucestershire, a disastrous night left the Tories nursing just ten seats on the 63-seat council, half the Labour tally and a third of the jubilant Liberal Democrat representation.

The result leaves the door open for the Liberal Democrats to form a minority administration on a hung council, although there is a theoretical possibility that Labour and the Conservatives could continue to agree to work together to keep the centre party out, the arrangement for the past two years.

In Northamptonshire, the Labour party has broken through to win an overall majority for the first time since 1977. But Jimmy Kane, the new ruling group's leader, immediately warned hung councils against becoming embroiled in pacts, partnerships or deals. "The only way is strong local government — trying to compromise just does not work."

In Cambridgeshire, where the Tories lost control to a hung council, the Labour and Liberal Democrats had already come to a deal by yesterday afternoon even though their 21 seats each were less than the Conservatives' 33. Janet Jones, the Labour leader, said: "We will be coming to an accommodation [with the Liberal Democrats] that will enable the council to work effectively. We have yet to consider the form the administration will take but we are likely to adopt the system when the council was last hung. This would mean joint spokespeople instead of committee chairpeople."

Surrey County Council, which has never experienced cross-party political cabals in the 103 years that the Tories have been in control, was coming to terms with its new status as a hung council. Michael Gammon, the Tory leader whose party was reduced to the largest group after he lost 22 councillors, rejected talk of pacts. "That is highly unlikely," he said. "We are the largest party and should take on that responsibility. I don't like pacts because they destroy responsibility and accountability," he said. "I think there will be agreements on individual issues, rather than joint governing structure."

Leading article, page 17

## Conservatives left with a single authority

### English counties

AVON (NO) Lab 33, C 25, LD 18, Lab lose 3, C lose 8, LD gain 11. No change.

BEDFORDSHIRE (NO) Lab 31, C 28, LD 13, Ind 1, Lab gain 6, C lose 7, LD gain 3, Ind gain 1, Others lose 3. No change.

BERKSHIRE (NO) Lab 33, Lab 24, C 16, Ind 2, R 1, LD gain 18, Lab gain 6, C lose 21, Ind gain 3, R lose 6. No change.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE (C) C 39, LD 16, Lab 13, Ind 3, C lose 10, LD gain 10, Lab gain 1, R lose 2. No change.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE (NO) C 33, Lab 21, LD 21, Ind 1, R 1, C lose 13, LD gain 13. C lose control to NOC.

CHESTER (NO) Lab 35, C 22, LD 14, Lab gain 4, C lose 7, LD gain 4. No change.

CLEVELAND (Lab) Lab 51, C 14, LD 12, Lab gain 3, C lose 5, LD gain 2. No change.

CORNWALL (LD) Lab 42, Ind 21, Lab 8, C 6, Others 2, LD gain 14, Ind lose 4, C lose 8, Others lose 1, LD gain from NOC.

CUMBERIA (NO) Lab 39, C 27, LD 14, Ind 3, Lab gain 2, C lose 8, LD gain 11, Ind lose 4. No change.

DERBYSHIRE (Lab) Lab 55, C 21, LD 7, Ind 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 5, LD gain 3, Ind lose 1. No change.

DEVON (NO) Lab 29, Lab 21, C 19, R 5, LD gain 29, Lab gain 8, C lose 37, R gain 2, Ind lose 2. C lose control to NOC.

DORSET (NO) Lab 38, C 29, Lab 6, Ind 4, LD gain 15, C lose 12, Ind lose 3. C lose control to NOC.

DURHAM (Lab) Lab 56, C 6, LD 6, Ind 4, LD gain 2, C lose 1, Lab lose 1. No change.

EAST SUSSEX (NO) Lab 30, C 22, Lab 18, LD gain 13, C lose 15, LD gain 1. C lose control to NOC.

ESSEX (NO) Lab 33, C 32, LD 32, Ind 0, Lab gain 1, C lose 1. C lose control to NOC.

GLoucestershire (NO) Lab 29, Lab 19, C 12, Ind 2, Others 1, LD gain 7, Lab gain 2, C lose 11, Ind lose 2. No change.

HAMPSHIRE (NO) Lab 48, C 29, Lab 24, Ind 1, LD gain 22, C lose 26, Lab gain 4. C lose control to NOC.

HEREFORD/WORCS (NO) Lab 25, Lab 24, LD 23, Ind 4, C lose 13, Lab gain 2, LD gain 11. No change.

HERTFORDSHIRE (NO) Lab 30, C 27, LD 19, Other 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 18, LD gain 14, R gain 1. C lose control to NOC.

HUMBERSIDE (Lab) Lab 43, C 22, LD 10, Lab gain 4, C lose 8, LD gain 7. No change.

ISLE OF WIGHT (LD) Lab 28, C 9, Ind 6, LD gain 3, C lose 7, Ind gain 4. No change.

KENT (NO) Lab 41, Lab 30, LD 28, C lose 13, Lab gain 5, LD gain 9, Others lose 1. C lose control to NOC.

LANCASHIRE (Lab) Lab 53, C 35, LD 10, vacant 1, Lab gain 4, C lose 5, LD gain 3. No change.

LEICESTERSHIRE (NO) Lab 37, C 31, LD 17, Lab gain 6, C lose 10, LD gain 6, Others lose 2. No change.

LINCOLNSHIRE (NO) Lab 32, Lab 25, LD 15, Ind 4, C lose 10, Lab gain 6, LD gain 3, Ind gain 1. C lose control to NOC.

NORFOLK (NO) Lab 34, Lab 32, LD 16, Ind 2, C lose 12, Lab gain 4, LD gain 2, C lose control to NOC.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE (Lab) Lab 36, C 27, LD 5, Lab gain 5, C lose 7, LD gain 3, Ind lose 1. Lab gain control from NOC.

NORTHUMBERLAND (Lab) Lab 40, C 13, LD 11, Ind 2, C lose 3, LD gain 3, Ind gain 1. No change.

NORTH YORKSHIRE (NO) Lab 35, C 29, Lab 23, Ind 9, LD gain 15, C lose 17, Lab gain 2, Ind gain 3, Others lose 3. No change.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE (Lab) Lab 59, C 23, LD 6, Lab gain 10, C lose 11, LD gain 3, Ind lose 1. No change.

OXFORDSHIRE (NO) C 25, Lab 24, LD 20, Other 1, C lose 8, Lab gain 1, LD gain 7, Other gain 1, Ind lose 1. No change.

SHROPSHIRE (NO) C 26, Lab 23, LD 13, Ind 4, C lose 3, Lab lose 2, LD gain 4, Ind gain 1. No change.

SOMERSET (LD) Lab 41, C 13, Lab 2, Ind 1, LD gain 25, C lose 17, Lab lose 3, Ind lose 1. LD gain control from C.

STAFFORDSHIRE (Lab) Lab 53, C 23, LD 4, Others 3, Ind 1, Lab gain 5, C lose 8, LD gain 2, Others gain 1. No change.

SUFFOLK (NO) Lab 31, C 26, LD 19, Ind 4, Lab gain 4, C lose 20, LD gain 15, Ind gain 1. C lose control to NOC.

SURREY (NO) C 34, LD 29, Lab 8, R 4, Ind 1, C lose 21, LD gain 19, Lab gain 1, R gain 2, Ind lose 1. C lose control to NOC.

WARWICKSHIRE (NO) Lab 30, C 19, LD 10, Ind 3, Lab gain 7, C lose 12, LD gain 6, Ind gain 1. C lose control to NOC.

WEST SUSSEX (NO) Lab 33, C 26, LD 19, Ind 1, LD gain 17, C lose 19, Lab gain 2, Ind gain 1. C lose control to NOC.

WILTSHIRE (NO) Lab 33, C 18, Lab 7, Boundary change, C lose 20, Lab gain 2, LD gain 14, Ind lose 3. C to NOC.

WELSH COUNTIES

CLYWD (Lab) Lab 32, Ind 17, C 8, LD 3, PC 3, Ind 1, C lose 2, Lab lose 2, LD lose 11, Ind gain 17, PC gain 3, Other lose 6, Boundary change. No change.

DYFED (NO) Ind 31, Lab 22, LD 8, PC 7, R 1, C 1, Lab lose 7, LD gain 5, PC gain 3, C gain 1, Other lose 1. No change.

GWENT (Lab) Lab 55, C 26, LD 1, PC 1, Lab gain 2, C lose 2, LD gain 1, Ind lose 1. No change.

GWYNEDD (NO) Ind 27, PC 18, Lab 9, LD 7, C 1, Others lose 5, PC gain 6, Lab lose 3, LD gain 1, C gain 1, Others lose 5. No change.

MID GLAMORGAN (Lab) Lab 60, PC 12, LD 8, Ind 1, Lab lose 3, PC gain 3, Ind gain 1, LD lose 1, C lose 1. No change.

POWYS (Ind) Ind 69, LD 4, LD gain 1, Lab gain 1, Ind lose 1. No change.

SOUTH GLAMORGAN (Lab) Lab 40, C 12, LD 8, Ind 1, Lab lose 2, LD gain 2, Ind gain 1, PC lose 1. No change.

WEST GLAMORGAN (Lab) Lab 46, Ind 7, C 3, LD 3, PC 1, Lab gain 3, C lose 3, LD gain 1, PC lose 1, Ind gain 1, Other lose 1. No change.

### ELECTION RESULTS

Previous councils

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## 'Disgusted, Tunbridge Wells' turns on Tories

BY JONATHAN PEYNN

THE Ramsgate Popular Front may not yet be a political force to be reckoned with, but in Kentish terms a revolution swept through the Garden of England on Thursday.

Ever since Victorian reformers set up the county tier of local government in 1889, Conservatives have ruled at Maidstone's elegant county hall. After seeing their majority chipped away at the 1985 and 1989 local elections, Conservative hegemony finally came to a dramatic end after a 104-year unbroken reign, with the Tories ending the night 14 seats down.

One of the more popular victors was Cheryl Hall, the Labour candidate at Ramsgate South, who became a television star in the 1970s through her role as the girlfriend of the Tooting revolutionary, Citizen Smith.

While the depressed Thanet port may have been more predictably vulnerable to the anti-Conservative wave sweeping through the county, other results still had the power to stun the assembled media and politicians at Maidstone.

Tunbridge Wells has long enjoyed an image as an unshakeable bastion of Tory values. But on Thursday it was the government that disgusted the town's famous moaning letter-writers, with Tunbridge Wells Central falling to the Liberal Democrats.

The sense of fear from local Tory MPs was almost palpable as the results came in from 10.30pm onwards. Conservative gains were not lost to parliamentarianism since the early 1970s, and they do not intend to start now. For Julian Brazier, the reason for the disaster in Kent was national political problems such as the recession. For Andrew Rowe, Mid Kent MP, the distractions of Maastricht had fatally obscured the strength of the government's message on other issues.

## Gap between Whitehall and town hall is set to widen

BY TONY TRAVERS

The concept of the Tory shires has finally been removed from the national vocabulary. Thursday's local elections saw Liberal Democrat and Labour councillors installed in county halls where, until recent years, there was no question that the Conservatives were the natural party of government.

Much will be written about the political importance of the 1993 county council elections, but it is important to remember that they were local elections. Despite the importance of national political issues, local views will have played their part in the results. Moreover, the new complexion of the shires will profoundly affect the way they use their resources and also how the government reacts to the fact that Tories have been removed from many of the local corridors of power.

The prime minister recently signalled that he wished to improve the relationship between Whitehall and the town halls. The fact that many county councils will now be led by opposition councillors means that the gap is certain to widen. Remember, the shires are responsible for the bulk of all local authority spending in England and Wales. The control of so many billions of pounds means real political

power for Labour and the Liberal Democrats.

Thursday's local polls may be the last in many of the existing counties. The Local Government Commission is examining local government in England, Wales, David Hunt has published proposals for a single tier of councils. There may have to be fresh elections in 1994 for "shadow" councils in the Isle of Wight, Derbyshire and several other areas, and possibly throughout Wales.

That the Tories now control only one county council is, by any standards, extraordinary. Surely this political

reality will not influence the government's view on the proposals made by the commission for new authorities? Counties are generally arguing that they should be the basis for new local authorities, while districts take the view that it would be a brave (and naive) commentator who did not take account of the real political world. Shire district councils are still significantly in Tory hands, compared with the new tally of just one county.

On the other hand, the Conservative party still holds a large number of seats in the counties. Moreover, the

Tories have always attached considerable importance to their shire organisations. The party's roots are still there, despite the emergence of new types of urban Conservative during the Thatcher years. If the counties were sacrificed, the party would surely risk its own future organisational strength.

It may never be possible to disentangle the effect of purely local factors in the 1993 local election results. The Channel tunnel link must have shifted votes in Kent. The possible abolition of Humberside surely affected votes there. West Country counties produced landslide changes. There were significant regional variations in Conservative, Labour and Liberal Democrat successes and failures.

Looking ahead to next year, when there are London borough and district elections, it is clear that the Conservatives are in deep trouble. They now have out-right control of just one shire county and one metropolitan district. London is the last place where they run a respectable number of the big spending authorities. On Thursday's showing they could lose most of their London boroughs as well. Mr Major has just 363 days to get things right.

## Tebbit blames treaty for defeat

BY JILL SHERMAN, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

LORD Tebbit yesterday blamed the government's obsession with ratifying the Maastricht treaty for its disastrous results at Newbury and in the county council elections.

He called on the prime minister to "change direction" by giving priority to domestic issues and worry less about pushing policies through on Europe which most people did not want. Unless he changed course the Conservatives would lose the trust and affection of the British people.

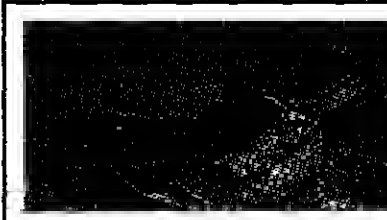
Commenting on Thursday night's county council results,

Lord Tebbit said: "I do not think they were entirely disconnected with the widely held view that the government puts ratification of the Maastricht treaty above all else, and yet the people do not understand why it should be given such priority."

Launching a guide to the Maastricht treaty, published by the Maastricht Referendum Campaign, Lord Tebbit said that there was not much enthusiasm for Labour, and

the Liberal Democrats would always be only a party of protest. However the Conservatives were at risk of forfeiting the public's support.

Newbury was a warning to the government that it could lose the affection and trust of the people in this country unless it changes course. The treaty will drag us back into the ERA before long and I think that could provoke a political crisis," said. "I think the elections showed that people wanted to give the government a very hard knock indeed."



Ask anyone who has undertaken a three week comprehensive tour of China and they will tell you how rewarding an experience it was, but at the same time how tiring. We have therefore planned our visit to include nine days on land combined with nine days aboard the MS Caledonian Star.

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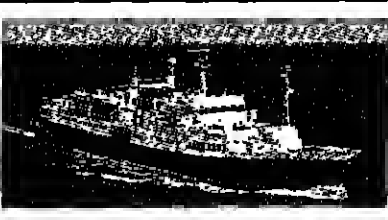
cities of Shanghai and Nanjing. After a relaxing nine day voyage we will leave the Caledonian Star in Nanjing and commence a nine day land tour which will include such unforgettable sights as the Terracotta Army in Xian, the tranquil beauty of Hangzhou and the imperial splendour of Beijing's Forbidden City.

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There is accommodation for up to 110 passengers. All cabins are 'outside' with private shower, and refrigerator. It has a single-sitting restaurant with delicious meals prepared by our European chef, two lounges, bar, library, shop, beauty parlour, clinic, sun deck, swimming pool and plenty of deck areas for reading or observation.



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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 8 1993

HOME NEWS 5

## Elderly couple die as fire hits store with no sprinklers

By Stewart Tandler

AN ELDERLY couple died and 34 people were taken to hospital yesterday when fire broke out in a crowded department store in Chesterfield, Derbyshire, while the town was packed on market day.

As smoke filled the Littlewoods store, people climbed out of windows and perched on ledges above the town centre, waiting for rescue. Some were reached by market stallholders with ladders on the tops of vans.

Bill Newby, Derbyshire assistant chief fire officer, said there was no sprinkler system in the store, but an automatic fire alarm was connected to the fire service and engines were at the scene in three to five minutes. He said there was no law requiring stores to have sprinklers. The store had a current fire certificate issued by the brigade and everything was in order.

He said investigators would examine why there was so much smoke from the fire and

why people had difficulty escaping. They would interview shoppers and staff.

The couple who died are believed to have been in their 60s and 70s and lived locally. Chief Supt John Moss, of Chesterfield police, said they were found together near an escalator on the first floor. The fire was thought to have broken out on that floor and the casualties taken to hospital suffering from smoke inhalation were all on that floor. One person was reported to be in a serious condition.

Joan Healey, 59, of Tupton, Derbyshire, who worked in the store restaurant, said she went to the windows when she realised there was no way out. "It was obvious that was the only way to get out, so we climbed onto the ledge,"

Mrs Healey, rescued by firemen after 15 minutes on the ledge, said: "I thought my number was up. I don't usually panic but when you can't get out through the stairs and the

windows on the first floor you don't have much choice. As I sat on the ledge, I kept thinking I was going to have to jump because it was getting life or death."

Sixty firemen with ten fire appliances tackled the blaze at its height and breathing apparatus was used to gain access. Colin Cheetham, station officer, said: "In my experience, it was a fierce fire which spread fairly quickly when it took hold. The seat of the fire was between the sales area and cafeteria on the first floor." The cause of the fire was not known.

Mr Cheetham confirmed one of areas they would be examining was the possibility of an electrical fault and he confirmed work had recently been carried out at the store.

In a statement, the Littlewoods chain, which has 126 shops, said that it would seek further information about the cause and effects of the fire.



Clinging to life: people escaping the blaze climbed out through the windows

## Man Ray sets record for photo

By John Shaw

A SURREALIST photograph by Man Ray showing a woman with her face dotted by imitation glass tears set a new £122,500 world record for a photograph at Sotheby's in London yesterday.

The black and white photograph is stamped with his picture credit and was taken in about 1930. He gave it to the vendors who were close personal friends.

The study is a little-known variant of a more tightly-cropped image which has been published widely. It was estimated to make between £20,000 and 30,000.

At Christie's, South Kensington, buyers spent almost £20,000 on books owned by the late Sir Winston Churchill. A collection of 13 signed first editions was sold by Viscount Thurso, of Ulbster.

A collection of speeches on free trade forecast at £500-800 made the top price of £4,400. It was bought by a British collector.

Maggis Brothers, the book dealers, bought three first editions, *The World Crisis*, for £2,090, *My Early Life*, for £1,870, and *Marlborough: His Life And Times* for £4,180.

## The royal spinsters

The Spanish Infantas, Cristina and Elena, are pushing 30, but are still unmarried. Their honest girl-next-door images also leave them hopelessly outclassed in any undesirable competition with



slinky Stephanie or glamorous Gloria. Then there is that famous Bourbon nose, a Concorde cock that can be carried off as aquiline masculinity by Felipe and his father, but looks more like an unattended can-opener on the girls...

Peter Millar on the Spanish princesses - *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

## Victim finds burglar was her son

A WOMAN who found an armed man ransacking her home was about to hand over money when the burglar's mask slipped and she identified him as her son.

David Lewis broke into his mother Megan's home and threatened her with a knife. Yesterday Lewis, 21, was jailed for 15 months by Swansea Crown Court after admitting aggravated burglary.

The court was told that Mrs Lewis, 58, ran screaming into the street outside her home in Town Hill, Swansea, and her son fled. She telephoned the police and Lewis, unemployed, of no fixed address, was arrested. Stuart Hughes, for Lewis, said he had decided to go to the house because he needed money for food, clothes and drugs.

Mrs Lewis said later: "I still love him in a way but it is so hard to forgive what he has done. It hurts me to think about it. All this has been so hard. Since he was arrested he has telephoned to say he was sorry but I still think 15 months is not long enough. He needed a harsher penalty to teach him a lesson."

## Rape threat woman gets three years

A WOMAN who threatened to rape a male restaurant manager unless he handed over cash was jailed yesterday for three years.

The Old Bailey was told that Lana Hyman, 25, made the "terrible" threat after bursting into the home of 5ft 4in Ahmed El Shafie in Southfields, southwest London, with two accomplices.

Mr El Shafie, 32, told the court: "She said to me they would take me to her flat. She said they would smoke crack and then she would rape me." Asked by counsel for Hyman, Mark Rainford, if that was "a terrible prospect", he replied: "Yes."

He added: "They said they would cut my head off if I told the police."

Marks Moore, for the prosecution, told the court that Mr El Shafie's cashpoint card was used several times that night and £300 was taken from his account.

Michael Small, 24, was jailed for two years for theft and robbery and Donna Simms, 22, for 18 months. They and Hyman came from Southfields.

## Slimmed-down 999 service rejected

A plan for the 999 telephone emergency service to be run by a new agency from three centres was rejected by the watchdog body Ofel yesterday. The service, set up 56 years ago, operates from more than 80 centres round the country and handles 23 million calls a year, at a cost to BT of £30 million.

Ofel's director-general, Don Cruickshank, said that an independent study showed that benefits of the new system would be limited and he had asked for alternative solutions. Changes would be acceptable only if they could, "with a very high degree of confidence, improve or at least maintain the present very high standard of service".

## Soldier loses legs

A part-time soldier in the Royal Irish Regiment was in a critical condition yesterday after an IRA booby-trap explosion. The soldier, 26, whose wife is pregnant, was driving through Lurgan, co. Armagh on Thursday night when the bomb exploded under his car. Surgeons had to amputate his legs yesterday to try to save his life.

## Tribute to water chief



The grieving widow of Sir Roy Watts, left, the Thames Water chairman, wept yesterday as a clergyman paid tribute to her husband. At his funeral in Oxford, Lady Watts heard Canon John White praise Sir Roy's contribution to his company and to Britain. Sir Roy, 67, was found dead in the Thames on Tuesday, eight days after disappearing from his flat in Battersea, south London.

## Sword man convicted

Peter Gilchrist, 34, who severed a detective's hand with a sword, was cleared of attempted murder but convicted of causing grievous bodily harm with intent. Gilchrist, a warehouseman of Tottenham, north London, was remanded by an Old Bailey judge to a secure psychiatric unit for reports. He will be sentenced in four weeks' time.

## Lorry crash blocks M4

Two lorries collided on the M4 in Berkshire yesterday morning, completely blocking all three lanes of the westbound motorway towards Wales. No one was injured in the crash, which ended with one lorry carrying a crane jack-knifed across three lanes and the other, which was transporting a load of apples, in flames.

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49 hours on the return flight. So you'd have to fly twice round the world to see it all.

And by that time, our movie premiere channel would have probably had its monthly update. Bringing you the latest films, hot from Hollywood.

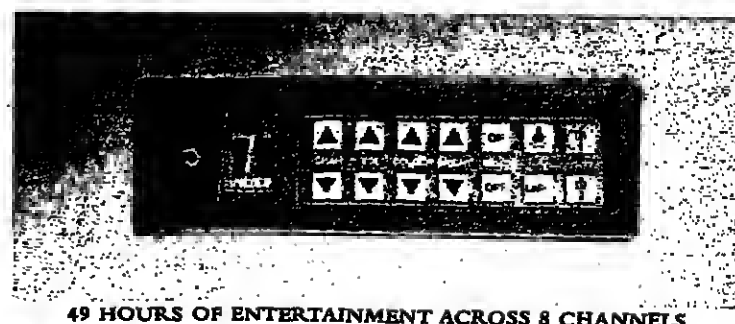
Then again, some like it old. So there's the movie classics channel.

And for those who like it silly, the comedy channel. Or there's sports. Or the arts. Or current affairs. And just for luck, another movie channel.

All at the touch of a button on your

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# JPs' clerks warn that Home Office advice on fines may be illegal

By FRANCES GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

JUSTICES' clerks yesterday attacked as "unsound" and "perhaps illegal" the new guidelines on means-related fines, agreed by the home secretary and the Magistrates' Association three days ago, and said that its members would not apply them.

The Justices' Clerks' Society threw the system into confusion by urging the immediate withdrawal of the guidelines, which were sent to courts on Wednesday in an effort to end what Kenneth Clarke called "some of the more absurd decisions" arising from means-related fines.

In a statement indicating a clash between the clerks, the chief legal advisers to magistrates, and the Magistrates' Association, the society said that it viewed the guidelines "with grave concern".

The guidelines, which allowed magistrates to review a calculation of a fine if the result seemed "inappropriately high", was "unsound, misleading and in consequence, perhaps, illegal", they said. It amounted to "fudging the law".

Earlier this week Mr Clarke had backed down over the much-criticised means-related fines which have resulted in

huge penalties on offenders of modest means as well as some paltry fines on poor offenders. Yesterday the justices' clerks expressed concern that the new guidelines had resulted from discussions between the home secretary and the Magistrates' Association, which might be seen as "indicating that there has been a direct influence over judicial decision-making... Such advice has been issued without consultation with the Justices' Clerks' Society and we dissociate ourselves from it."

Laurie Cramp, honorary secretary of the 350-member society, which was holding its annual conference in Eastbourne, said: "Clerks are going to apply the law as it is and not as set out in this bulletin. If the law is unacceptable, then it is for Parliament to change it." There was concern that magistrates would feel able to "fudge" a fine if it seemed too high and the guidelines "encouraged that approach".

Under means-related or unit fines, magistrates determine the gravity of an offence in numbers of units. They assess an offender's disposable income on the basis of a means form and multiply the

figure by the number of units to reach the fine. The guidelines tell magistrates that "if the value of the unit appears to be inappropriately high, taking into account all the circumstances", magistrates "should look again at the value".

Mr Cramp said that although magistrates had discretion over fixing the number of units and in assessing disposable income, if the fine was "too high, unless they have miscalculated and exercised their discretion on an unsound basis, the ultimate result is the sentence that must be imposed".

Joyce Rose, chairman of the Magistrates' Association, who was a guest at the conference, said that she regretted the clerks' reaction. She rejected the view that the guidelines were illegal, or amounted to new law. "They are interpretation, based on the understanding we have following discussions with the Home Office."

## Yacht club back in business as members return from exile



Flying high: Pat Dyas, admiral of the Royal Corinthian Yacht Club at Cowes, Isle of Wight, hoists the club's royal flag yesterday, four years after taking his members into exile following a dispute over ownership of the club house and the royal flag

(Barry Pickthall writes). The imposing building overlooking Cowes Roads was sold without the club's knowledge to the Ancasta Group, then headed by Crispin Lowe, who wanted to commercialise its operations. After the walk-out, Mr Lowe

formed the Castle Rock Yacht Club but it foundered with the Ancasta marina in Cowes when the group called in the receivers late in 1991. Last December, four of the Corinthian's senior members, led by Mr Dyas, bought back the building and

in February the Princess Royal agreed to become the club's patron. Mr Dyas said: "It has been four hard, agonising years. The support we have had has been enormous. Our membership, 450 when we shut down, is now more than 700 strong."

## Chess rival may have no backers

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE international chess federation (Fide) appears to be having difficulty in attracting bids for its world championship match between Jan Timman of The Netherlands and Anatoly Karpov, the former world champion.

The match has been organised in opposition to The Times Chess Championship of the World between Garry Kasparov, the reigning world champion, and Nigel Short, the British grandmaster, who beat Timman to reach the final.

Fide had invited bids for its match to be submitted by yesterday, ahead of its executive council meeting in Athens on May 15 and 16.

Past practice has been for the source of bids received to be announced when bidding closes, but yesterday a spokesman for Fide in Lucerne, Switzerland, said: "There will be no announcement until the executive council meets. The executive council will decide."

The curt tone of the announcement and the refusal to answer further questions raised the possibility that Fide has, in fact, received no bids.

Kasparov and Short refused to play under the control of Fide in Manchester, and Kasparov was stripped of his title in March. The two have since launched the Professional Chess Association as a rival to Fide and their match, at the Savoy Theatre in London this autumn, is to be sponsored by The Times.

## Duke spices tour with a belly laugh

FROM ALAN HAMILTON IN BUDAPEST

THE Queen's otherwise faultless four-day state visit to Hungary ended yesterday with one of those famous *bon mots* by the Duke of Edinburgh which, if taken as anything other than a bad joke, can engender apoplexy among diplomats.

Many thousands of onlookers had gathered in warm sunshine in downtown Budapest to watch the royal couple perform the last walkabout of their tour. The duke suddenly spotted among the sea of faces a Fort Vale football supporter holding a placard proclaiming: "Up the Vale."

The duke, after some harmless enquiry about the meaning of the placard, asked Bobby Ball, the supporter, how long he had been in Hungary. "Two weeks," Mr Ball, 26, replied. "You can't have been here for two weeks," the duke retorted. "You haven't got a pot belly."

Hungarians do not in fact have a noticeable propensity for pot bellies. Their cuisine, however, leans heavily towards girth-expanding quantities of red meat, goose liver, sausage, pancakes, chocolate and other enemies of healthy living.

Clearly the duke, who during the week has attended two state banquets, a four-course lunch with the Hungarian prime minister, and a picnic at which a whole barbecued calf was served, was feeling the effects of exposure to a mid-European diet.

## CHAMPIONSHIP CHESS

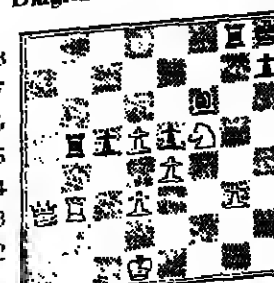
By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Nigel Short struck back immediately in the Brussels 1987 Swift Chess World Championship to score a splendid victory against Kasparov. After a dubious opening the champion, true to his turbulent style tried to stir up trouble for Short all over the board. Nigel kept cool under fire, however, and on the 37th move he produced a stunning coup which netted Kasparov's queen. This is the way Nigel will hope to win the match against Kasparov in September.

White: Nigel Short  
Black: Garry Kasparov  
Brussels 5-minute tournament 1987

Sicilian Defence  
1 e4 c5  
2 Nf3 d6  
3 b3 Bg7  
4 Bb5+ Qxd7  
5 Bx7+ Nc6  
6 O-O g6  
7 c4 Bg7  
8 d3

Diagram of final position



- |    |       |    |      |
|----|-------|----|------|
| 9  | Nc3   | 15 | Nge7 |
| 10 | Nd5   | 16 | O-O  |
| 11 | Bg5   | 17 | Nae7 |
| 12 | Bxe7  | 18 | Qxe7 |
| 13 | Nxe7+ | 19 | Qh4  |
| 14 | Nd2   | 20 | Rf6  |
| 15 | Qe2   | 21 | Rf6  |
| 16 | Nb1   | 22 | g5   |
| 17 | g3    | 23 | Qh3  |
| 18 | h3    | 24 | g4   |
| 19 | Nc3   | 25 | h4   |
| 20 | Nd5   | 26 | Rf3  |
| 21 | Qg2   | 27 | Raf1 |
| 22 | hvg3  | 28 | Kf2  |
| 23 | Ne7+  | 29 | a4   |
| 24 | Nf5   | 30 | Kx2  |
| 25 | hvg4  | 31 | Rb1  |
| 26 | Rf3   | 32 | Kd1  |
| 27 | Raf1  | 33 | Qe2  |
| 28 | Kf2   | 34 | axb5 |
| 29 | a4    | 35 | cxv5 |
| 30 | Kx2   | 36 | Rf2  |
| 31 | Rb1   | 37 | Rh2  |
| 32 | Kd1   | 38 | Cah2 |
| 33 | Qe2   | 39 | Qb3  |
| 34 | axb5  | 40 | Qd3  |
| 35 | cxv5  | 41 | Rb3  |
| 36 | Rf2   |    |      |
| 37 | Rh2   |    |      |
| 38 | Cah2  |    |      |
| 39 | Qb3   |    |      |
| 40 | Qd3   |    |      |
| 41 | Rb3   |    |      |

Winning Move  
Weekend, Page 15

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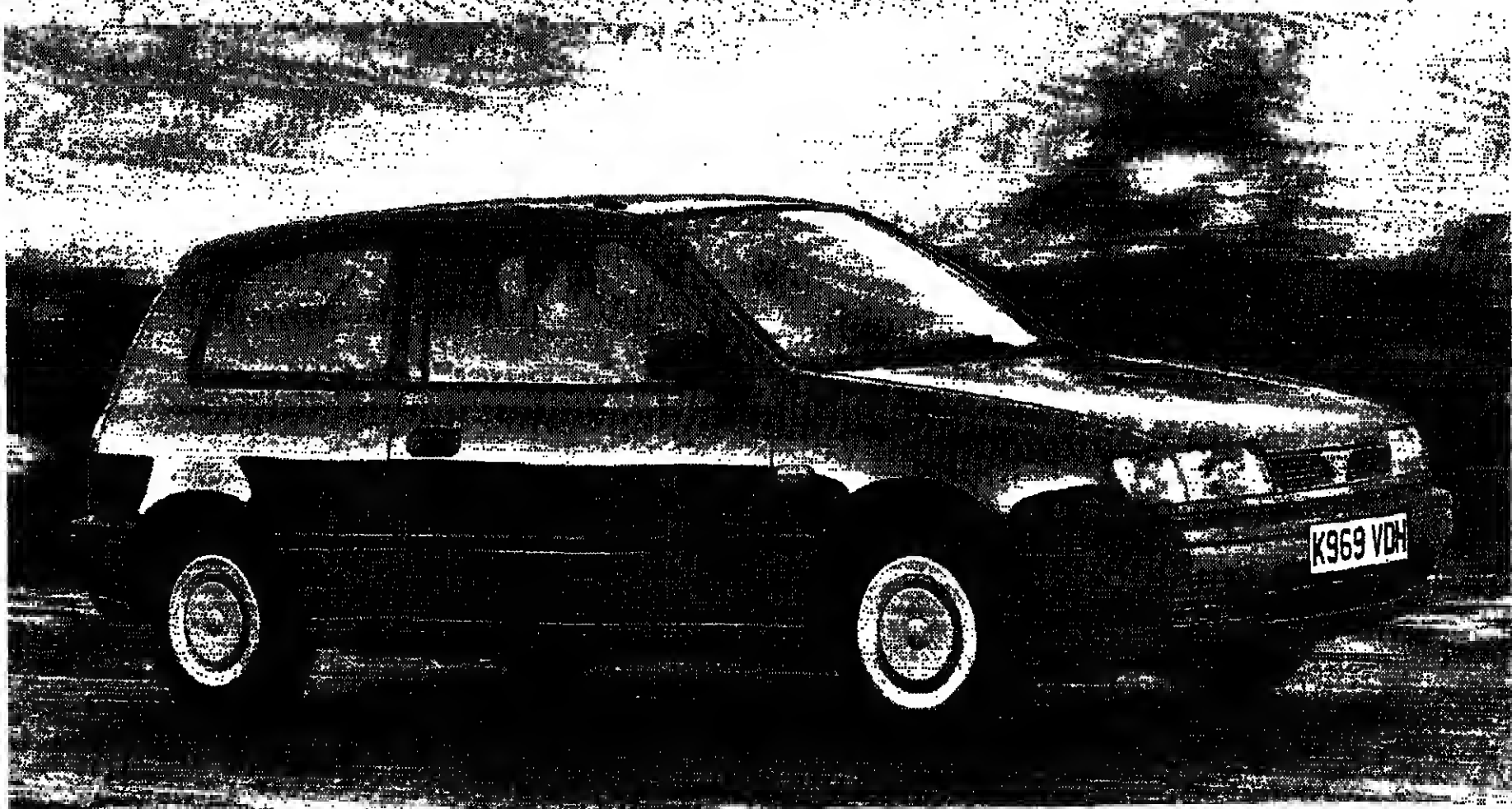
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WINE. Joanna Simon.  
The Times. May 2nd 1993



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Clinton believes a woman will be elected to the White House in his lifetime

## President trades on Hillary factor to end popularity slide

FROM WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU  
IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton last night resorted to a proven strategy to rescue himself from his slide in popularity, appearing on television side by side with his wife.

America is witnessing with some bemusement yet another brave attempt at a Clinton comeback, evoking memories of the Arkansas governor's resurrection last year after the Gennifer Flowers scandal and draft-dodging allegations. After having been written off by many pundits, it was his wife who bailed him out on television.

Last night's appearance was more notable for the president's statement that "a woman will be elected president, probably in my lifetime", adding that this would be less controversial "than the partnership that Hillary and I have established". The appearance formed part of a whole raft of new presidential initiatives to reconstruct the Clinton image after criticisms that in his first 100 days Mr Clinton attempted everything but achieved nothing. The president is now reverting to

■ The repackaging of Bill Clinton has started: a supportive wife, town hall meetings, and one big policy at a time

the tried and tested strategies, as he attempts to repair the "laser beam" which he promised to focus on the nation's domestic problems.

As part of this new approach the White House yesterday announced the return of town hall meetings, a public relations device which Mr Clinton used during the first weeks of his presidency. Next week he will hold three such meetings, in New York, Chicago and Cleveland, Ohio, this time to revive support for the economic programme.

Mr Clinton also decided to strengthen internal White House organisation, by appointing Roy Neel, a long-standing adviser to Al Gore, the vice-president, to the newly created post of deputy chief of staff. A seasoned Washington veteran, Mr Neel's role is to prevent accidents as happened in late March and early April, when the Senate killed Mr Clinton's economic stimulus programme, while the

president focused most of his attention putting together a stimulus programme for another country: a package for Russia.

In another consequence of the adoption of a one-big-policy-at-a-time strategy, the White House also confirmed that the health reform package is to be postponed until next month. The delay comes amid fears that the package is otherwise in danger of being ruined by Congress. The strategy is now to build strong, and if possible bipartisan, support for the health proposals. A majority of Americans back the reforms.

□ Poll vouchers: Candidates for Congress would receive vouchers to pay for television commercials under campaign finance reforms proposed by Mr Clinton (Ian Brodie writes). The vouchers would come from public funds raised in part by new laws eliminating tax deductions for lobbyists.



Team spirit: President Clinton, introducing a raft of new initiatives, has appeared with his wife Hillary on television in an attempt to repeat their successful election campaign style of last year

## Pérez tells judges to end trial suspense

FROM DAVID ADAMS  
IN MIAMI

PRESIDENT Pérez of Venezuela has challenged the country's supreme court to make a quick decision on whether to file corruption charges against him. He said in a weekly radio address that he would resign if the court decides to try him for the alleged misuse of \$17.2 million (£10.95 million) in secret government funds.

Privately, Señor Pérez is reported to have told colleagues that he would rather resign than risk political turmoil that might endanger the country's shaky democracy. Last year, he narrowly survived two military coup attempts, and the country has been rocked by a series of financial scandals.

On Wednesday, reports in the local media said Gonzalo Rodríguez, the supreme court president, had issued an opinion recommending that Señor Pérez and three aides be tried over the scandal.

Impatient to hear the opinions of the court's 14 other members, Señor Pérez published a letter he had sent to them in which he called for their verdict "without delay". He said: "Expectations have been raised at home and abroad about the imminent indictment of the president. I think the country cannot be subjected to this uncertainty for several days or weeks."

## Military brutality casts shadow over Paraguayan polls

BY GABRIELLA GAMINI

PARAGUAY'S voters, 1.6 million of the country's 4.5 million population, will tomorrow have their first chance in half a century to elect a civilian president and escape from decades of one-party military rule.

President Rodríguez has promised a smooth transition to civilian rule, but opposition candidates fear that tomorrow's congressional and presidential elections may be marred by fraud perpetrated by the ruling Colorado party, which has run the country since 1947. Their fears were heightened when the high court banned exit polls.

General Lino Oviedo, the

start afresh, and move away from Stroessner's legacy. The dictator's regime of state-run terror has left a scar on most people. They want to get rid of it just like a disease," said Josephina Fernández of the Committee of Churches, a leading human rights body.

Hundreds of people, including trade unionists, students, and farmers' sons, were tortured or killed for their alleged communist affiliations. Former secret police files detailing Gen Stroessner's brutal regime, discovered in the cellars of an old police station outside Asunción, the capital, give gruesome details of the regime's torture techniques. The files also allegedly reveal Gen Stroessner's direct complicity in human rights abuses.

Acting on this information, the Paraguayan judicial authorities have requested his extradition from Brazil, where he has lived in exile since he was toppled. The Brazilians have not yet responded.

The candidates favoured by the electorate are promising a break with the past. Polls predict that Guillermo Caballero Vargas, 50, representing the newly formed National Encounter party, will be the most likely winner, taking about 34 per cent of the vote. He is a wealthy businessman whose campaign was funded by the business community.

His party has centre-right tendencies and promises to introduce change slowly. At the same time, it advocates modernisation and a gradual opening up of the economy.

"We have to introduce a democratic way of thinking, to turn the security forces into professional rather than political forces. But whatever change we undertake must be made with caution," Señor Caballero Vargas said during the election campaign.



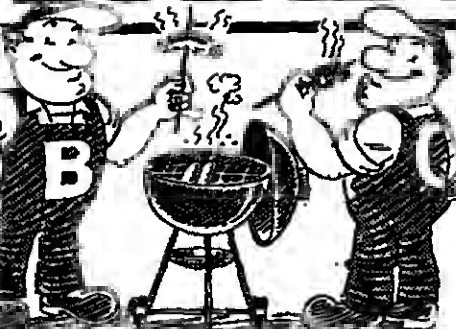
Rodriguez promised a smooth transition

country's top officer, has made clear that a victory for the opposition parties in the congressional election — the predicted result — will not be accepted. "The army is not prepared to accept another party, regardless of who is bothered by it or annoyed by it," he said. His statement was supported by other generals.

Opinion polls indicate that most Paraguayans favour a break from the Colorado party, which is still associated with the brutal 34-year dictatorship of General Alfredo Stroessner, who was overthrown by General Rodríguez in a 1989 coup. "A lot of people want to

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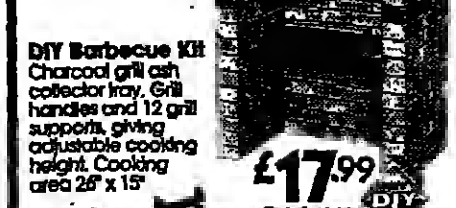
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# Craxi faces renewed questioning in corruption enquiry

By JOHN PHILLIPS  
IN ROME AND  
OUR FOREIGN STAFF

■ Italian MPs are alarmed at Carlo Ciampi's appetite for change since his appointment as prime minister

CARLO Azeglio Ciampi, the Italian prime minister, last night faced a parliamentary confidence vote that his government was widely expected to win in spite of resentment by many MPs at his determination to introduce speedy electoral reforms.

The 72-year-old former central bank governor was expected to address some criticisms of his programme in a formal reply to speeches by parliamentary party leaders yesterday evening when the 630-seat lower house was moving to a vote. A similar test will be held in the senate, the upper house, next week.

The government appears to have obtained the curious distinction of being supported outright by even fewer parties than its fragile predecessor led by Giuliano Amato. However, no main party has dared to oppose the new coalition, many of whose ministers are technocrats called in to steer the country through reform.

Only the dominant Christian Democrats have given official full backing to Signor Ciampi but many of the party's MPs fear that the new prime minister's determination to introduce rapid reform is a prelude to them losing their parliamentary seats.

Guido Bodrato, the Christian Democrats' spokesman, told the chamber of deputies that his party was supporting Signor Ciampi, above all because of his personal qualities as a man "of great prestige who has accepted a mandate of great responsibility out of a sense of duty".

He accused other parties of being "reluctant and avaricious" in their attitude to government policy. The Socialists, Liberals and Social Democrats, who supported Signor Amato, have been lukewarm at the prospect of an autumn general election, which seems likely if Signor

Ciampi achieves his objectives on time. Those parties want the polls to be postponed until next spring so that they can have more time to clean up their image, which has been badly damaged by the enormous corruption scandal.

Bettino Craxi, the former prime minister and Socialist party leader, faces a new investigation on corruption charges. He is accused of having received gifts from public works companies when ANAS, the highways association, was awarding contracts. Francesco Borelli, the Milan public prosecutor, also said Signor Craxi may be tried for breaking the law on the funding of political parties over which his immunity was lifted. Last week, deputies rejected the lifting of Signor Craxi's parliamentary immunity in connection with the most serious corruption allegations against him. The deputies' decision prompted the resignation of ministers of the Democratic Party of the Left from the government only hours after they had been nominated, and triggered demonstrations in several cities.

Four more corruption investigations were also launched yesterday. Another Socialist senator, Nicola Putignano, is the subject of one of the inquiries. Signor Putignano, who was a member of the senate public works and budget commission, is also implicated in the ANAS affair.

The other three investigations concern Severino Citaristi, the former Christian Democrat administration secretary who is already the subject of a record 28 corruption investigations. Signor Citaristi is suspected of having received bribes in the ANAS affair and in the allocation of contracts for the state rail company.

The prime minister has indicated the government will introduce legislation next month to end the existing proportional representation system if parliament does not do so this month.

The Democratic Party of the Left and the devolutionist Lombardy League yesterday said they would abstain in the confidence vote, meaning that only small protest parties, such as the neo-fascist Italian Social Movement, will vote against the government.

□ Bomb attack: A traffic policeman was fighting for his life yesterday after a car bomb exploded outside the mayor's office in Terlizzi, a southern Italian town under strong Mafia influence.

Police said the bomb went off when the officer opened the door of a suspect car which was parked outside the town council building. Terlizzi is under direct rule from Rome because of alleged Mafia links. Its town council is one of dozens dissolved by the Rome government on suspicion that they have been infiltrated by the Mafia or may be under the influence of organised crime. (Reuters)

Ciampi plans speedy electoral reforms

Ciampi plans speedy electoral reforms



Surprise bite: Mila Mulronney, the wife of Brian Mulronney, the Canadian prime minister, grappling with a trout she caught yesterday at the summer residence of President Yeltsin near Moscow during an official visit to Russia

## Moscow braced for clash

FROM ANATOL LIEVEN  
IN MOSCOW

MOSCOW is bracing for further violence tomorrow as opponents of President Yeltsin threatened to defy orders and hold a march to mark Soviet victory in the second world war. A communist demonstration on May Day left one policeman dead and more than 500 people injured.

Yuri Luzhkov, the city's mayor, was said to be under intense pressure from conservatives to relax restrictions on demonstrations and allow the march to proceed as far as the Kremlin. Unless a compromise is reached, clashes appear inevitable.

Yesterday, Mr Yeltsin and thousands of Muscovites attended the funeral of Vladimir Tolokmeyev, the policeman who died this week from his injuries suffered in the May Day clash. Leaders of the conservatives stayed away.

□ Rival sacked: Eduard Shevardnadze, the Georgian leader, has consolidated his hold on power after his chief rival, defence minister Tengis Kitovani, was sacked by a majority vote in the Tbilisi parliament. Mr Kitovani was said to have been plotting to topple Mr Shevardnadze.

## Quiet revolution puts Rome through the mincer

By PAOLO BONAIUTI

Whoever said that a revolution must be bloody? Three former communists, and a fourth disguised as a "technician", had joined the new government, traditionally a stronghold among the institutions of Italy. It had taken 13 years, the collapse of the Berlin Wall and a devaluation of 33 per cent of the lira in a few months, before the words pronounced by Enrico Berlinguer, the leader of Eurocommunism, in 1980 — "Now it is up to us" — could become reality.

But ten hours after their swearing-in, they had resigned because the chamber of deputies refused to allow

the trial of Bettino Craxi, the former Socialist leader, on corruption charges. Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the new prime minister, had to form a new cabinet.

The Italian "quiet" revolution is mincing up politicians. Until a month ago, Giulio Andreotti, the philosophical essence of power, slept his five hours a night. Now he is a shaken man, looking all his 74 years, 50 of which were spent on the most important seats of Italy. Signor Andreotti, who protests his innocence, will face trial for alleged links with the Mafia.

While the *ancien régime* was falling and the economy trembling, many voices, in

the media began to shout "Our democracy is at risk." But there is not even a tinkling of bayonets in our armed forces. The very idea of disillusion in the army has been dismissed, from the humblest corporal to the highest general, as ridiculous. Mario Buscemi, the deputy army chief of staff, declared only a madman could contemplate a coup.

So our institutions really do appear unshakable as President Scalfaro recently affirmed. But there is a problem in Italy, which is generating its current peaceful revolution. According to Benjamin Constant, revolution breaks out when the pact between the institutions

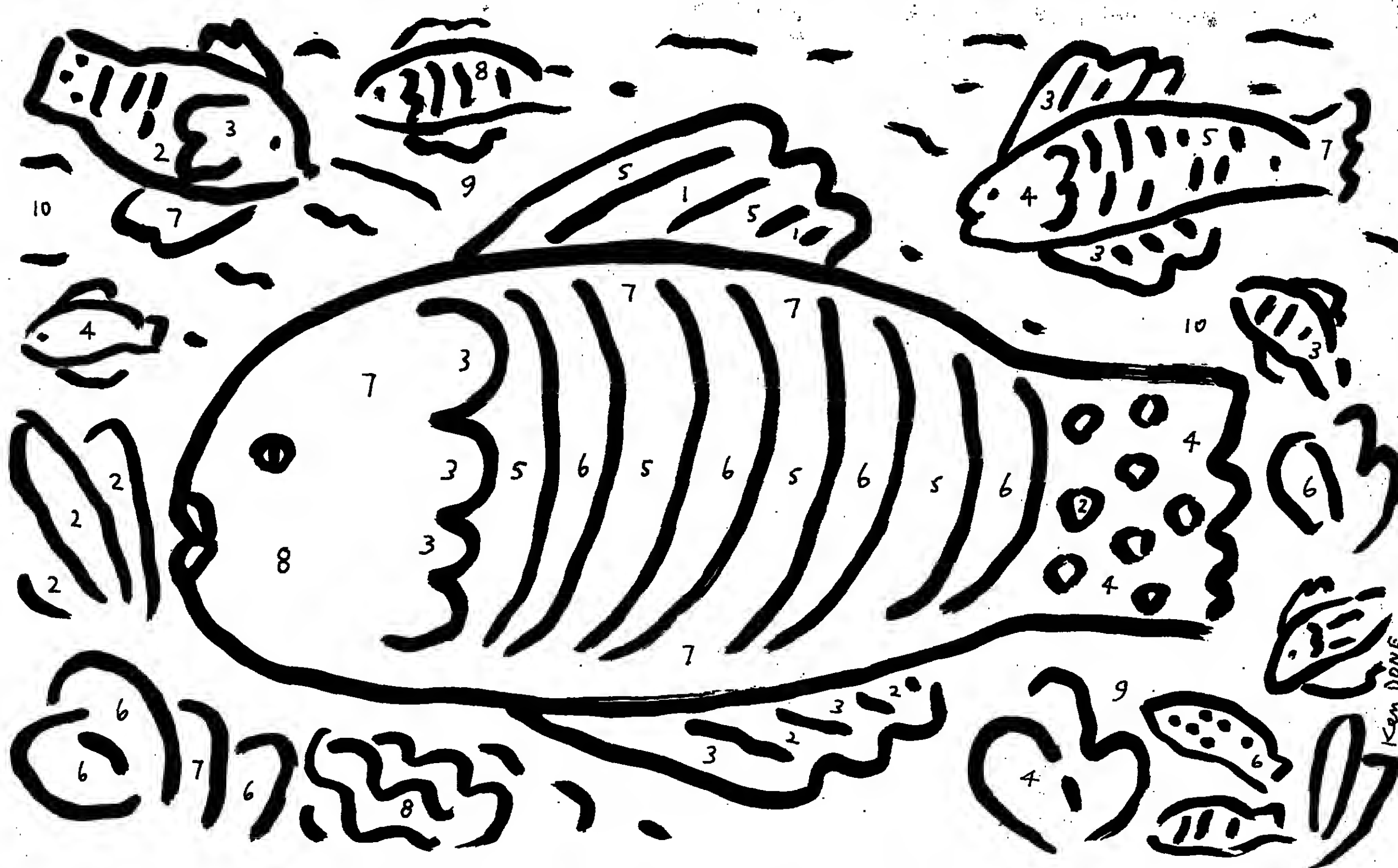
and the ideals of the people disintegrates. The wave of corruption and kickbacks coming to the surface in the country has made Italians believe that a big percentage of the political class has broken election pledges. This explains why another institution, the judiciary, is receiving high praise.

After the arrest of more than 250 people at the top of the managerial and political class and discovery of a mountain of billions of lire in bribes, Operation Clean Hands has the same role as the Club des Jacobins in the French Revolution. Some days ago the rector of Milan University could

proudly announce that applications to study at the faculty of law, giving access to jobs in the judiciary, had risen by 60 per cent, compared to the previous year.

Italians are truly angry with their political class. That is why the maiden speech of Signor Ciampi was received coldly by parliament, which is the weakest institution in the country at the moment. Our members of parliament know perfectly well that as soon as the Italian electoral system is changed at least 70 per cent of them will be dismissed from office.

Paolo Bonaiuti is deputy editor of *Il Messaggero* of Rome



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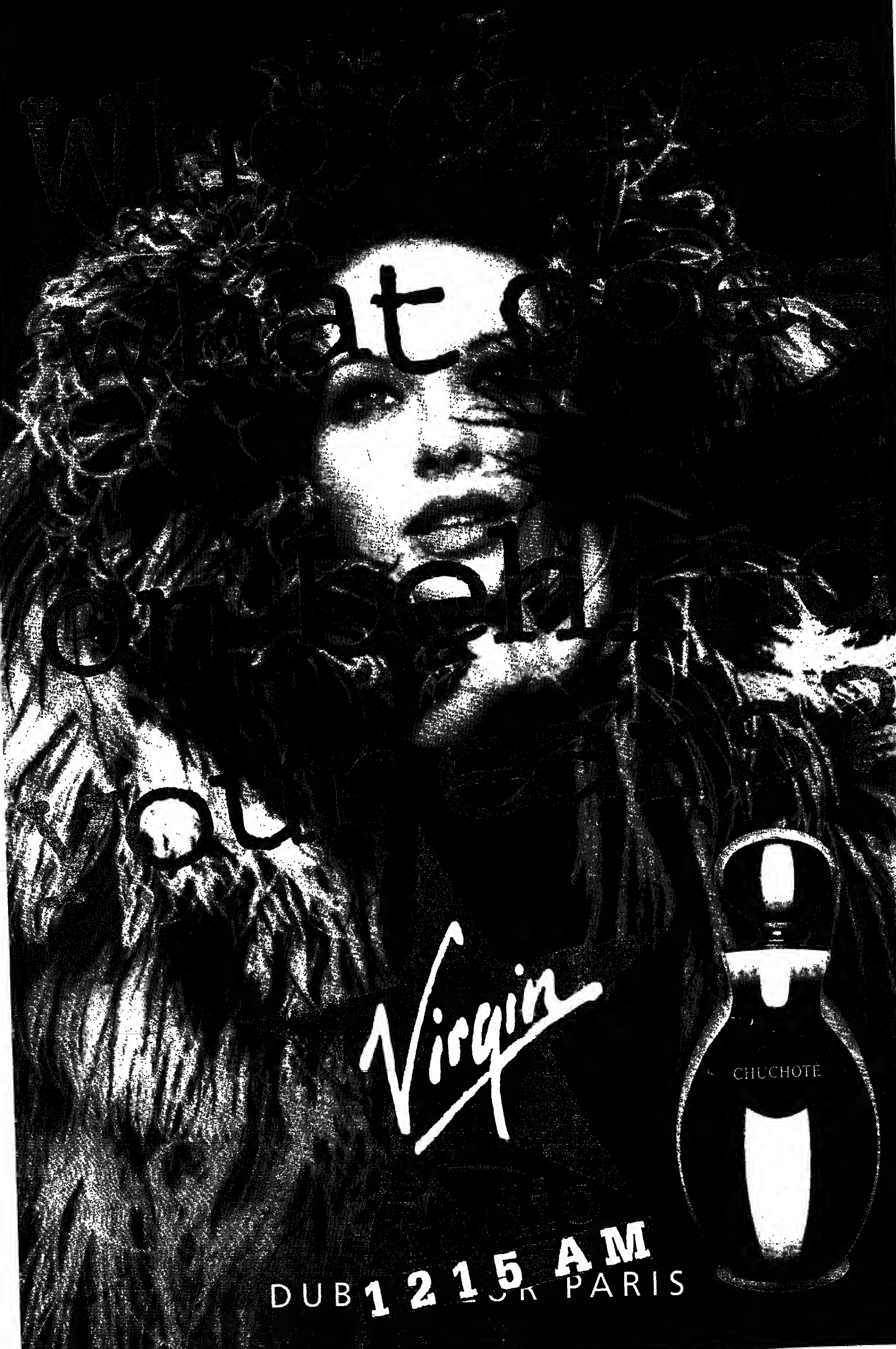
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# Belgrade strongman wrestles to pin down ruthless general



Milosevic appointed Mladic head of army

FROM TIM JUDAH  
IN BELGRADE

TWO SERB strongmen are pitted against each other in the struggle for the soul of the Bosnian Serbs. General Ratko Mladic, their military leader, has been a prominent voice in the resistance to the Vance-Owen peace plan. He is in no doubt that he is charged with the defence of the Orthodox Christian world. Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian president who has played the nationalist card with such devastating effect, is trying to force the genie he has unleashed back into the bottle.

In an interview published in the newspaper *Vecernje Novosti* yesterday, General Mladic said: "Regardless of what we decide, the West will continue to implement its infernal plan. What is at stake is an attempt to disunite the Orthodox world, and even annihilate it."

In the small hours of Monday morning, the general could be seen through the glass windows of the hotel restaurant where Bosnian Serb deputies were meeting. He was gesturing towards a map of the proposed division of Bosnia over which he had superimposed another, showing how much territory the Serbs held today.

Two hours later a glum looking President Milosevic stalked out and his government announced it was cutting supplies to the Bosnian Serbs. General Mladic, however, emerged all smiles. His speech is credited with being the root decision in convincing the Bosnian parliament to reject the plan.

**Slobodan Milosevic has unleashed forces he can no longer control. General Mladic, a Serb zealot, is one of them**

When the history books are written, General Mladic will be remembered as one of the most important figures in the wars of former Yugoslavia. A career officer, he was the head of the Knin Corps of the Yugoslav Army when the Serbs of Croatia, supplied by and fighting with his troops, carved out a third of the republic's territory for themselves in the bloody struggle that began in spring 1991.

After the Yugoslav Army left Croatia, General Mladic was appointed head of the army in Sarajevo by President Milosevic. It was a key move, made days before the Yugo-

slav Army pulled out of Bosnia last May and was made against the wishes of the army hierarchy. Being a Bosnian Serb from Kalinovik, General Mladic became, as planned, the commander-in-chief of the new army of the self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb republic.

Within days he had struck terror into the hearts of the population of Sarajevo. Bosnian Radio played over and over again an alleged intercepted tape recording of him talking by radio to subordinates whose mountain positions overlooked a Sarajevo suburb. "Blast Pofalici," he

said, "don't let them sleep a wink, there aren't many Serbs there."

General Mladic rails today that the Serbs are facing a re-emergence of German-Austro-Hungarian imperialism and are engaged in a deadly struggle with a new Croatian fascism and a Vatican plot. Many Serbs say this but the difference with the general is that he really appears to believe it.

He is loved by his troops and mobbed by women and children when he walks in the streets. Ruthless, emotional, erratic and aggressive are all words commonly used to describe him. Diplomats on the Vance-Owen team are impressed by the general, even though he is one of the leading opponents of their Bosnian peace plan.

A UN official who once

stood on a hill in the Serb-controlled part of Croatia with him said: "He looked down and described in the minutest detail battles and fights in all the surrounding villages. He knew all the dates and even all the names of those who had been killed."

While General Mladic says today that he is against the Vance-Owen plan, this may not be his last word. After the Vance plan for Croatia was signed he had firmly stated several times that the Yugoslav Army would never withdraw from the area. Within weeks they had gone.

Last month he said UN troops would only enter the besieged Muslim enclave of Srebrenica "over my dead body, that of my mother, my wife and my sister". Days later, a Canadian UN contingent entered the town.



Mladic credited with rejecting peace plan

## Clinton turns wrath on European allies for delaying tactics

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

THE Bosnian Serb parliament's rejection of the Vance-Owen peace plan has angered Washington, but that anger is being directed less at the intransigent Serbs than at European allies who refuse to approve the tough new action President Clinton wants. Britain, France and other allies are in danger of becoming Washington's whipping boys.

A senior White House official contacted British journalists before Mr. Clinton left for his tour of European capitals last Saturday to emphasise that the Secretary of State was going for genuine consultations, not to dictate policy. Compare that with the tone of Mr. Clinton's remarks after the Bosnian Serb vote. He had instructed Mr. Christopher to intensify the pressure on the Europeans and to be "insistent that the time has come for the international community to unite and act quickly and decisively". America was "ready to do its part", the president said, "but Europe must be willing to act with us. We must go forward together".

The *New York Times* yesterday reported that exasperated Clinton aides were likening the allies to a family living in an upstairs flat while the ground floor is on fire. They "refuse to call the fire department because they do not want their carpet to get wet as the fire is extinguished".

Not since the Cold War, said the *Los Angeles Times*, "when Nato Secretary General Lord Carrington grumbled that the Western alliance was made up of 'American cowboys and Eurowimps', has the split in attitudes between Washington and its allies been so apparent".

The guts of the policy Mr. Christopher presented to the allies was arming Bosnia's Muslims and using air strikes to protect them until that process was complete. He returned to Washington last night having secured the support only of Turkey, and to a lesser extent Germany and

Italy, for that approach, with Britain and France still resolutely opposed to lifting the arms embargo.

Mr. Clinton and Anthony Lake, his national security adviser, expressed optimism that America and its allies would reach a consensus "fairly shortly", and there is talk of Mr. Christopher returning to Europe next week. But a senior British official said he

### Bear gets armed escort to safety

Vitez: British UN troops, using honey-coated apples, coaxed MacKenzie, the brown bear, into a steel transport cage yesterday ready to evacuate him to safety today. A dozen soldiers, three Warrior fighting vehicles, an armoured recovery vehicle with a crane, and two lorries were deployed to fetch "Big Mac" from his cage in a sniper zone near Vitez, after local Croat officials reluctantly agreed that he should be moved to the Adriatic coast.

The four-year-old bear, named after General Lewis MacKenzie, the Canadian who led UN troops in Sarajevo last year, will be taken to the safe Croatian port city of Split on a British army lorry. Two Warriors will provide an escort. (Reuters)

was baffled by that optimism. "I have seen no evidence of any softening on lifting the arms embargo" by either Britain or France, he said, adding that the only consensus was on the necessity for "stronger measures".

American optimism appeared to be based partly on the assumption that the Bosnian Serb vote has, as a *New York Times* editorial put it yesterday, "ripped away the diplomatic fig leaf behind which EC governments have

been hiding". Washington's hope was "that after Wednesday night's vote the Europeans will take a still harder look at the [military] strategy we have laid out for them", one senior administration official said.

But the administration also knows that ultimately the Europeans would almost certainly rather accept the American approach, however unpleasant, than risk an open rift with Washington that would undermine the Atlantic alliance and the American commitment to Europe. The allies "do not want to diverge from the US position", an official told *The Wall Street Journal*.

In the meantime, diplomats suggested America was covertly seeking to "divide and rule", trying to pick off individual allies until the others signed up out of fear of isolation. The Germans are seen as most malleable, followed by the French, with the British last.

Even if Mr. Clinton does secure allied backing, he will still have problems achieving a consensus for action at home. A CBS poll yesterday showed 52 per cent felt America had no responsibility for the Balkans, with just 37 per cent arguing the opposite. A *USA Today* poll showed Americans opposed air strikes by 55 per cent to 36.

Colin Powell, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, made his reservations clear in a private meeting with congressmen on Thursday. Asked why he opposed the use of force last week but now appeared to favour it, he reportedly replied that he was doing his job but still believed force should be used massively or not at all. His statements "did not strike me as a ringing endorsement or a call to arms", William Cohen, a Republican senator, said afterwards.

Belgrade: Two famed 16th century mosques were blown up in the northern Bosnian town of Banja Luka yesterday in an attack condemned by the United Nations as an attempt to terrorise Muslims into flight.

Police sealed off the area around the Ferhadija-Pasha and Arnaudija mosques after two powerful blasts. Dobrica Cosic, the Yugoslav president, called the attacks an act of barbarity and said they were "the final warning to all reasonable and responsible people" to end the civil war. (Reuters)

Owen plea, page 1  
Simon Jenkins, page 16  
Letters, page 17



Peeping Tommy: a lance corporal watches for snipers from behind a torn canvas while on guard duty at the British base in Vitez. More than 700 British soldiers are on duty in the area as part of the UN force

## Fiasco that undermines the alliance

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

UNDER the relentless pressure of the grisly battles in Bosnia, the alliance which used to be known as "the West" is coming under serious strain.

On the diplomatic surface, all is well. Ministers shuttle back and forth. The machinery of consultation and decision hums. Nato and the United Nations are working overtime. But generals drafting plans for a Nato force to supervise the Vance-Owen plan for the partition of Bosnia made a sobering discovery. None of their masters - not even America, Britain or France - had a clue what they were doing. The Vance-Owen document should have been one piece of a jigsaw; but the

other bits never appeared. What was the overall aim? When could UN soldiers fire in anger? Who runs the town council? The ministers who met so frequently did not even want to hear these questions, let alone answer them.

The Serbs realised quickly that the UN's apparent determination to influence events was empty. Their parliament's rejection of the Vance-Owen plan would "focus" the decision on stronger action. Warren Christopher, the American Secretary of State, said here this week. The Serb zig-zag had precisely the opposite

effect. The allies remain as divided as ever and British ministers are now hinting that they may go along with America's next mistake for the sake of transatlantic unity. That admission reveals that relations between Europe and America are under dangerous strain.

The allies now stand all but paralysed. They hesitate to go forward for fear of being dragged into an unwinding conflict by slow degrees. European stability might be better guaranteed by allowing the civil war to take its course and restricting outside efforts to ensuring that no trouble spills over in Kosovo or Macedonia.

The tension between foreign policy based on moral

needs and one based on cold-eyed judgements about national interests is as old as history. But the UN Security Council must come to terms with the need to tackle the dilemma again in the new nationalist politics of the post-Cold War age.

If the governments of the "West" wish to avoid being summoned by public emotion to police ethnic flashpoints, they had better define where they will act and where they will not. When they act, they had better be ready to do so quickly and decisively. If they fail and repeat the Bosnian fiasco, America's ties of trust with Europe will surely fracture.

## Delegates agree on a deadline for election

Johannesburg: South Africa's first non-racial election will be held not later than the end of April next year and the exact date for it will be set within the next four weeks, delegates at the multiparty constitutional negotiations agreed yesterday (Ray Kennedy writes).

It is the first major breakthrough in the talks since they were resumed last month after nearly a year's break. Only the right-wing Conservative Party opposed a declaration of intent approved by the other 25 delegations.

### Strike spreads

Berlin: Hundreds more East German steelworkers downed tools while union officials prepared for a ballot to widen the strike after talks in the Baltic port of Rostock between IG Metall and employers broke down.

### Activist ill

Harare: Chakufwa Chihana, 53, Malawi's leading pro-democracy activist, is coughing blood and suffering chest pains but still being forced to do hard labour in prison and to sleep on the bare floor of his cell, his lawyer said.

### Mayor injured

Boston: Three people were arrested after the mayor here and four others were injured when blacks and whites hurled rocks and bottles at each other outside a high school after a student demonstration. (AP)

### Plea to pope

Rome: As the pope begins a pastoral visit to Sicily, widows of two anti-Mafia judges, Paolo Borsellino and Giovanni Falcone who were assassinated last year, asked the Roman Catholic Church to sever ties with Cosa Nostra.

### Damages law

Bonn: Foreign victims of German neo-Nazi violence can get compensation under a bill approved by the Bundestag. Most foreign victims had been excluded from a law that compensates only EC citizens. (AP)

### Lost chords

Nesbit, Missouri: Tax agents seized pianos, guitars and mementos from the home of singer Jerry Lee Lewis and will auction them unless he pays over £1 million in back taxes. (AP)

### Exports denial

Peking: China's foreign ministry denied reports that China had shipped missile parts to Pakistan in violation of an international treaty. (Reuters)

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## Spectre of the Palestinian camps hangs over Bosnia

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN ZENICA

ZAİM Družić has never seen the wretched refugee slums of Khan Younis, the Palestinian refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip, or experienced the resentment homeless Palestinians feel in their enforced exile in such host countries as Lebanon and Jordan.

But he knows enough about the miserable legacy of those displaced from Palestine in 1948 to realise that history may be repeating itself in the Balkans, where hundreds and thousands of his fellow Muslims have been made stateless in their own country, trapped in tiny pockets of land and under continuous harassment by the more powerful Serb and Croat communities.

Once the largest industrial town in central Bosnia, boasting a modern steel mill and coalmines, Zenica is today a city of refugees. Schools, factories and public buildings have been appropriated, either to house entire villages

habitants who seem to have retained some form of livelihood are the shepherds and farmers in the public parks who brought their livestock with them.

For Mr Družić, 35, a former manual worker from the Serb-controlled town of Bosanski Petrovac, and his colleagues, their horizons do not extend much beyond the playground at the Manlio Popić elementary school, a nondescript three-storey structure, now housing 20 refugees to a classroom. "I want to make one thing clear, we will not become the Palestinians of Europe," he said to enthusiastic nods from his fellows. "We will organise new lives for ourselves."

The refugees' stubborn refusal to accept their sad fate is

regarded as ultimately futile by local aid workers, who point out that they are now having to distribute assistance not only to the 20,000 refugees, but to more than half of Zenica's population of 120,000. "There is no viable economy any more, the place is saturated with displaced persons, and so the entire area lives of international assistance," said Jorge de la Mota, representative of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees.

"The problem is that this is not a unique case; there are areas all over Bosnia where Muslims are squeezed into tiny pockets with no hope of ever being able to survive on their own," he said. "It is going to end up looking like the Palestinian camps."





# Khmer Rouge vows to launch mass offensive in days

FROM SUTIN WANNABOVORN  
IN PHNOM PENH,  
CAMBODIA

KHMER Rouge guerrillas are poised for a big assault on towns controlled by the Phnom Penh government in northwestern Cambodia, a senior officer of the rebel group said yesterday.

Asking not to be identified, he said Khmer Rouge reinforcements were approaching Sisophon, Battambang and Siem Reap and were poised to strike. "I think the attack on the Vietnamese and their puppets will take place in the next few days," he added. The present government was formed by the Vietnamese, who occupied Cambodia from 1979 to 1989, and is still backed by them.

The Khmer Rouge also denied yesterday that its troops had attacked United Nations peacekeepers. It said the UN had become a hostage to the Phnom Penh administration and had lost control of Cambodia.

The rebel group has opted out of a 1991 peace agreement and refuses to lay down its arms or take part in multiparty elections scheduled to begin on May 23. The rebels have also withdrawn to their jungle stronghold and refuse to attend meetings of the Cambodian all-faction reconciliation body, the Supreme National Council, because they say it is unsafe.

At a press conference in this Khmer Rouge stronghold near the Thai border, also known as Phum Malai, Mak Ben, a spokesman for the rebels, said they were being slandered for political reasons. He said a spokesman for the UN Transitional Authority in Cambodia (Untac) and elements inside and outside it had tried to accuse the Khmer Rouge of attacks against Untac personnel from Japan, India, China and Poland. He said the Khmer Rouge "categorically rejects that slanderous accusation, motivated by ill political intentions. It is clear to all that Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets are responsible for the attacks."

"The Untac authorities have lost control of the situation

**■ The communist rebels in Cambodia still deny they are attacking United Nations peacekeepers, but do have the 'Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets' in their sights**

and have become the hostage of the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets."

The United Nations force has blamed the Khmer Rouge faction for two attacks on peacekeepers on Tuesday and one on Wednesday. United Nations officials said that the Khmer Rouge ambushed a UN convoy, killing one Japanese civilian policeman and wounding eight other peacekeepers.

Later on Tuesday, Khmer Rouge guerrillas attacked a Chinese engineering base and adjoining Polish facility with shells, rockets, mortars and



small arms. UN officials said. United Nations investigators said an attack on a train northwest of Phnom Penh on Wednesday was also the work of the Khmer Rouge. At least 13 people were killed and 34 were admitted to hospital after the attack.

The Khmer Rouge rebels are prime suspects for the attack early yesterday on a UN base in southern Kompong Speu province that caused a Filipino civilian police officer to die of a heart attack, a UN spokesman said. Four Bulgarian peacekeepers, a Colombian peace officer and a Cambodian guard were wounded in the attack.

While denying the attacks on Tuesday and Wednesday, the Khmer Rouge spokesman admitted that the rebels played a role in the full-scale assault on Siem Reap, home of the Angkor temples, on

Monday. He described the attack as a people's revolution "against the Vietnamese aggressors and their puppets."

The Vietnamese invasion in late 1978 ended the Khmer Rouge's three-year reign of terror, an experiment in total communism that killed up to a million people by execution, starvation and disease. The rebels were forced to retreat into the jungle and subsequently fought a 13-year guerrilla war with the help of two other factions. That conflict appeared to be over when all four parties signed the peace agreement in Paris in October 1991. (Reuters)

□ Tokyo: Junichiro Koizumi, the Japanese minister of post and telecommunications, said after a cabinet meeting yesterday that Japan should consider withdrawing its UN peacekeeping contingent from Cambodia. Debate over whether Japan should get involved in foreign conflicts has been rekindled by the death of the Japanese policeman in Tuesday's attack.

In approving peacekeeping activities last year, the government had "decided that Japan would offer its sweat in any international contribution, but it did not go as far as offering to shed blood", Mr Koizumi said.

The Kyodo news service reported yesterday that Japan's defence agency was secretly drawing up plans to withdraw troops from Cambodia because of the increasing tension. Takahiro Goto, a spokesman for the agency, denied the report, but suggested a withdrawal could occur after the Cambodian elections.

Japan's constitution prohibits any use of force in settling international disputes, and parliament passed a law allowing peacekeeping personnel to be sent abroad only after a clause was added to it limiting their dispatch to countries where a ceasefire is in effect. (AP)

## AK47 is king in land of mayhem

FROM JAMES PRINGLE  
IN SIEM REAP, CAMBODIA

THE Minefield bar, with defused landmines fixed to the walls, may be something of a sick joke in a country where so many have been crippled by these devices, but graffiti scrawled around the room expresses the concerns of United Nations peacekeepers in Cambodia.

"Only Mr. Kalashnikov can bring order to this country," one message opines, in a reference to the AK47 assault rifle. The Kalashnikov is indeed king in this provincial capital, but it also appears to be the prime cause of the mayhem currently afflicting the area.

Major Russian Salakhov is an unarmed Russian military observer who doesn't like being without a weapon when the Khmer Rouge and the Phnom Penh army hold up UN blue berets and steal their vehicles or when 500 Khmer Rouge guerrillas raid the town, as they did last Monday.

He helps monitor ceasefire violations here and knows that one stolen UN vehicle is now the personal transport of General Ta, otherwise known as Grandfather Mok, the merciless Khmer Rouge commander in northern Cambodia. According to one Cambodian, "people are so afraid of him they won't even say his name out loud."

It was Grandfather Mok who sent his forces into Siem Reap on Monday. UN sources said he was also behind the murder in March of 33 members of Vietnamese fishing families.

People in this town are also just as afraid of General Hong Sithi, the local officer of the Phnom Penh regime, who recently demolished homes in order to sell the land to Thai entrepreneurs.

Not unnaturally, locals say they dread the departure of the UN blue berets in August. "Who will protect us then?" asked a woman vendor in the market. Their only choice is between General Hong and Grandfather Mok — and that offers very little comfort.

## Thuggery taints Masai image

FROM SAM KILEY  
IN NAIROBI

MASAI warriors, who on average stand over six feet tall and naturally strike photogenic poses, their plaited hair worn past the shoulder and red with ochre, have enjoyed playing the role of the noble savage in films such as *Out of Africa*. But they have developed a reputation in Kenya for murder, theft and political thuggery.

A gang of moran (warriors) murdered six members of a rival ethnic group recently, and the government has regularly commissioned them as freelance ruffians to attack opposition supporters. Now they are seen by many Kenyans as violent lackeys of a regime they do not understand. The decline in popularity of the Masai has spread to the tourist sector after repeated armed attacks against visitors to the Masai Mara Reserve as well as Tsavo and Amboseli national parks. It comes with what Kenneth Matiba, leader of the opposition, believes is a government attempt to propagate tribal strife in Kenya, especially in the Rift Valley and the area around Molo, once the centre of the rich White Highlands in colonial times.

Although the valley has been the scene of cattle-raiding between the Masai, Kalenjin, Pokot, Karamajong and Turkana peoples for centuries, until recently the mixed-tribe settlements in the highlands were seen as a triumph of peaceful integration. But since President Moi gave a warning against the introduction of multiparty politics and said it would lead to tribal conflict, his ethnic group, the Kalenjin, and their allies, the Masai, have been at the centre of clashes which have cost at least 800 lives and made up to 100,000 people homeless since mid-1991.

When a hoard of about 100 Masai moran invaded Narok, about 80 miles west of Nairobi, killed six people and forced some 400 Kikuyu out of the town, Mr Moi's government was accused of doing nothing to end the conflict. Two days after the incident, William Ole Ntumama, the minister for local government and a Masai, visited the town and implied that the Kikuyu deserved the thrashing they got. He added that he thought that non-Masai should apply for licenses to run businesses in the area.

Soon after that Professor



Tribal pride: the Masai have enjoyed a reputation as a naturally photogenic people. But their warriors are now widely perceived as hoodlums for hire

George Saitoti, the vice-president, who says he is a Masai, signed the Kikuyu declaration, a "defence pact" with the warrior Kamba. Joseph Kamotho, the general secretary of the ruling Kenya African National Union and the education minister, regularly commissions Masai moran to beat up opposition demonstrators.

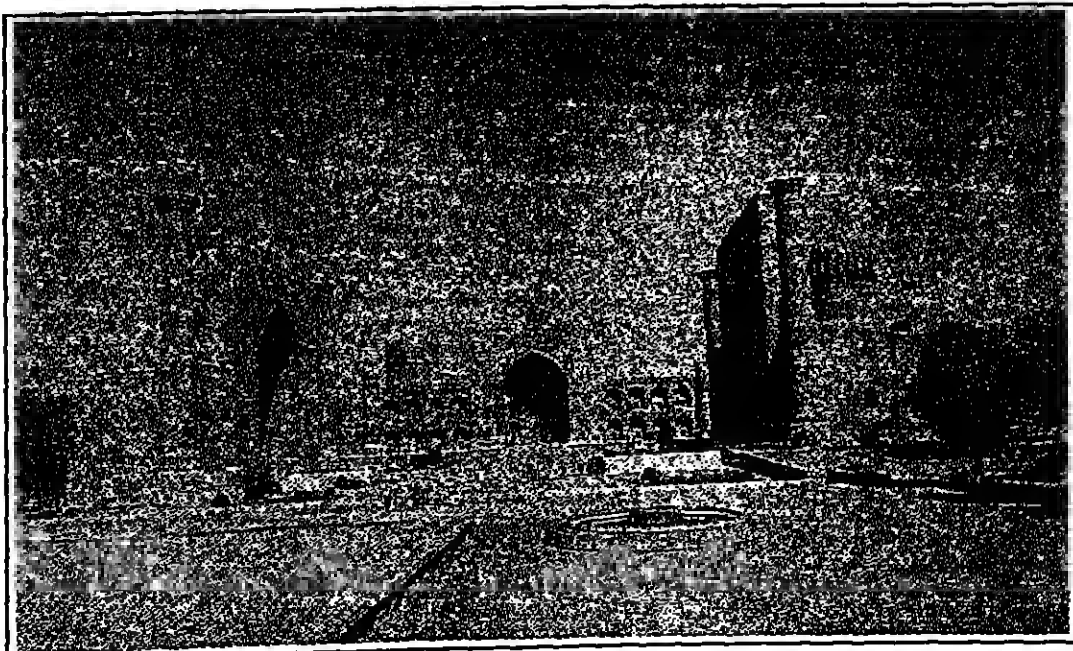
"President Moi and his close associates (all of them from Rift Valley warrior groups) have concentrated on rule by division," said a Western ambassador in Nairobi yesterday. "He has enlisted the support of the more backward

tribes to take on the opposition-dominated and well-educated Kikuyu, Luo and Luhya. The result is increasing tension across the country. The future looks grim if this sort of thing continues."

The Kikuyu are reported to be conducting "oathing" ceremonies, as they did during the Mau Mau rebellion, which they lead against British colonial domination. "We are all frightened of the power of the Kikuyu," said Francis Lomodo, a Turkana clerk in Nairobi. "They make a good army, have the best education and have magic. If they attack the other tribes they will win."

□ Witchcraft claim: Mary Wanjiru, a Kenyan MP of the opposition Ford-Asili party, told parliament she was a prophetess who could talk to God, and complained of "evil spells and witchcraft" in parliament, newspapers reported. "I had to pray a lot to cast away evil spells and witchcraft in the house and it is after casting them away that I am now able to stand and talk freely," she said, wearing a traditional headress for her maiden speech. Ms Wanjiru said God had told her that Kenya was on the verge of economic collapse because of "sabotage" by ministers. (AFP)

## SAMARKAND to BUKHARA



Registan Square, Samarkand

Visiting the cities of Central Asia has never been easy involving, as it did, a tiresome flight via Moscow in both directions and normally forming part of a much larger itinerary. This autumn, however, we are planning the first ever short series of flights from London Gatwick directly into Tashkent, thus making possible a short but comprehensive exploration of Tashkent, Bukhara and Samarkand. Our journey commences with two nights in Tashkent, followed by two nights in Bukhara and three nights in Samarkand. Additionally travellers will have the opportunity of making an optional two-night excursion by air to the fascinating city of Khiva.

The legacy of Tamburlaine in Central Asia is manifest in the magnificent buildings and architecture of Samarkand and the glorious Timurid mosques and shrines of Bukhara. Samarkand was one of the great medieval trading centres, a place where the caravan highways - of the Silk Road from China, the trails to India and to Marco Polo's Europe - all met and crossed. It was therefore no wonder that Tamburlaine, and later his grandson Ulug Beg, invested in his capital to make it worthy of its important position. The Registan, the main square, is the centrepiece surrounded on three sides by buildings whose pillars, arches and domes explore perfection in colour and shape.

Bukhara's great days began in the 9th and 10th centuries when it was the seat of the Samanid dynasty, but even when they were deposed, and Samarkand prospered, the city remained an important trading centre on the Silk Road. The old town is a

**At last, the opening of the gateway to the great bazaars and oases of Central Asia with a direct flight service from London to Tashkent and an optional visit to Khiva**

**7 nights from £595.00**

treasure trove of old and beautiful buildings dotted around a warren of jumbled streets with the Ark, a citadel with 18-metre walls, dominating the main square.

### Itinerary

Day 1 Depart London Gatwick in the morning on our direct flight (Marshall Airlines 757) to Tashkent. Due to the time difference we will arrive in the late evening and are transferred directly to our hotel situated in the heart of the city.

Day 2 The day is spent exploring the many sights as part of a city tour taking in the leafy boulevards, fountains and modern civic buildings as well as the Historical Museum.

Days 3 & 4 Our morning flight takes us to Bukhara, once the most important city in Central Asia. During our 2-night stay we will make visits to Kror Park, the double Madrasah, the tomb of Ismail Samanid and the former city fortresses, now a museum. Accommodation will be in the Bukhara Hotel.

Days 5 to 7 Our morning flight takes us to the beautiful city of Samarkand. During our three-night stay a

comprehensive visit will be made to all the main sights of King Tamburlaine's former capital, including the Mausoleum, Registan Square flanked by three great Madrasahs, the Great Mosque and the Sakindara burial complex.

Day 8 The whole morning is spent at leisure or for further exploration before joining the connecting flight to Tashkent where our special flight will return us to London Gatwick in the late evening.

### Departure Dates & Prices

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1993	
October 7, 14	£660.00
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November 4, 11	£625.00
November 18	£615.00
November 25	£595.00
1994	
March 17, 24, 31	£625.00
April 7, 14	£650.00
April 21, 28	£675.00
May 5, 12	£650.00
May 19, 26	£625.00
September 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£675.00
October 6, 13	£650.00
October 20, 27	£625.00
November 3, 10	£595.00

Singleroom supplement ..... £165.00  
Includes air travel and internal transportation as required. Transfers, accommodation on half board, sightseeing as indicated. Not included: insurance, 544 airport tax, visa procurement. Visa: Prices are subject to change.

### Excursion to Khiva

Also during the stay a 2-night excursion to Khiva may be taken (but must be reserved at the time of making the original booking). Supplement £130 per person.

### How to Book

For reservations please telephone Voyages Jules Verne on 071-723 5066.

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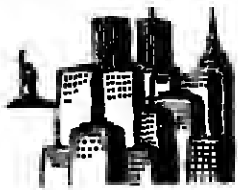
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## Alexander Chancellor in New York



■ There is more hate than Americans imagined in the love-hate relationship with their shrinks

Neither Woody Allen nor Mia Farrow nor any of their various children, adopted or otherwise, seems likely to emerge in the end as a winner from the long and bitter custody trial which ended in New York this week. But some clear losers have already been identified. These are the shrinks, the professional psychotherapists, who have paraded day after day as expert witnesses before an increasingly bemused and sceptical judge.

Every member of the extended Allen-Farrow family seems to have been in therapy, and a fat lot of good it seems to have done them. As a writer in *The Washington Post* somewhat crudely put it, "The fact that a family can employ this many \$150-an-hour therapists and still be this screwed up could give the whole mental health profession a public shiner."

The most striking example of failed treatment would appear to be Woody Allen himself who, it has been reported, has been in therapy for 33 years, 21 of them with the same analyst. But no amount of counselling could stop him from embarking on a reckless love affair with his wife's adopted daughter, Soon-Yi, half-sister of the three children he has been fighting for custody of.

Apologists for the profession have been reduced to suggesting that Mr Allen might be in an even worse condition if he had not already been in therapy for a third of a century.

Therapists have come out no better as witnesses in the trial. Justice Elliott Wilk, who has finished hearing evidence but has still to pass judgment on the custody issue, attempted time and again to get them to advise him what should be done in the best interests of the children, but all they seemed able to suggest was more and more therapy.

When one psychologist referred to Mr Allen's affair with Soon-Yi as a case of "impaired judgment", the judge soon lost his patience and said: "Bad judgment is when people are playing hooky from school. This is something more than that." The psychologist reconsidered, and then described it instead as an example of "faulty parenting practices".

If going to a shrink is perhaps no longer quite as fashionable as it used to be, New York remains the world capital of psychotherapy, with more therapists per head than anywhere else.

A ripple of shock has been running through the city following publication this week in *The New York Times* of a national survey showing that therapists, far from being the calm, un-

flappable people they are popularly imagined to be, are actually often harbouring the most intense emotions towards their patients. Nearly a third of those questioned admitted to actually hating at least one of their patients, and 46 per cent said they had on occasion been so angry that they had done something to a patient that they had later regretted. (What kind of thing, one wonders?)

Hardly less disturbing is the revelation that almost 90 per cent of therapists have been sexually attracted to a patient and 58 per cent have become sexually aroused in a patient's presence. But hatred, fear, and anger are the emotions that therapists say they have to live with most. Eighty-three per cent of them say that they have at some time been afraid that a patient might physically attack them, and 51 per cent say they have suffered fantasies reflecting that fear.

Fifty-seven per cent admit to having raised their voices at a patient because they felt angry, and the reasons for their anger include not only a patient's provocative behaviour in the consulting room, but also such things as patients being late for therapy sessions or in paying their therapists' bills.

"Of course," explained *The New York Times*, "strong passions in patient and therapist alike are understandable amid the hothouse of the therapy session, where people are free to reveal their raw fantasies and primal rages and terrors — with the therapist sometimes being the target."

But the survey showed that large numbers of therapists don't know how to deal with these understandable passions, as they are called. Half of them said they had poor training in how to handle fear, and two-thirds said they had little or no training in how to control sexual excitement.

While many modern psychoanalysts believe that the emotional reactions of therapists — properly controlled, of course — play a useful therapeutic role, most patients probably expect priest-like detachment from their counsellors and share Freud's view that the therapist's own feelings are an obstacle to treatment.

"I was shocked when I read the report," one person in therapy told me. "I don't expect my therapist to have no feelings, but it never occurred to me that he might actually hate me."

The fact that trust exists between patient and therapist will surely be less easy to sustain now it is known that 83 per cent of therapists say they become angry merely because their crippling bills have not been paid on time.

Western military involvement in Bosnia would meet the three classic criteria for political stupidity

## Follies of war

What a way to go to war! The prime minister and the American president are preparing to send 30,000 troops to Bosnia in a venture that neither believes in. They have no support from their publics. They have no support from their diplomatic or military advisers. If they go ahead it will be because Bill Clinton and John Major feel too insecure to pull back. Such is the illogic of war.

Folly, wrote Barbara Tuchman, is ignored by most historians of politics, yet it is the most enduring political phenomenon. Folly, she wrote, is independent of era or locality... Monarchy, oligarchy and democracy produce it equally, nor is it peculiar to nation or class. While every other science has advanced over the ages, government is just as vulnerable to crassness today as it was two thousand years ago. Tuchman offered three criteria for a classic "folly". A policy had to be acknowledged as foolish when it was formulated; there had to be an alternative policy available; and the policy had to be approved by a ruling collective, and not the act of a mad individual.

The Bosnia operation meets all three criteria. The opposition varies from sceptical to downright appalled, and includes America's most senior soldier, General Colin Powell; the military head of Nato, Field Marshal Sir Richard Vincent; the British Foreign Office and the American State Department; the British and French defence ministries; the Pentagon, except the air force, and the UN

secretary-general (at least initially). Intervention has few friends among Balkanologists.

That alternatives exist is palpably true. The Bosnian Serbs are approaching the endgame of their war for Greater Serbia. This involves the establishment of a *de facto* border between them and the Croats over the corpse of "independent" Bosnia. The Serbs will now consolidate their territory, leaving Sarajevo and perhaps a handful of other towns as UN-supplied Muslim enclaves.

Ever since the West's recognition of Bosnian secession a year ago, the only uncertainty has been how long this partition would take. The West can summon futile conferences, draw maps, turn Milosevic into a peacemaker. It can mouth threats, prime bombs, pinpoint targets and brief the world on how moral and lethal and clever it is. Nothing will stop the partition of Bosnia. Intervention may postpone it. We may turn every Serb into an extreme nationalist. We may even turn President Milosevic back into a war-monger. But partition will happen, and a sort of peace should ensue.

This will only be broken if the Muslims are encouraged to recapture land awarded them by the Vance-Owen map. If that happens, if the Muslims advance out of their en-

claves, killing and burning Serbs in revenge, then hell will resume and we shall be party to it. That is why Mr Clinton's favoured policy of bombing bridges and restocking the Muslim arsenal is as crazy a "pursuit of peace" as can be imagined. And this from the crusaders against Johnson and Nixon in Vietnam!

Simon Jenkins

Europe's marginally less murderous option is to put huge numbers of troops on the ground. At present the West is imitating Lord Raglan's camp before the Battle of Balaclava. Mr Hurd wants "no bullets". General Powell hears the word surgical and "heads for his bunker". America's UN ambassador likens Britain to *Alice in Wonderland*. Lord Owen first wants troops deployed irrespective of Serb defiance, then does not. As this point, Lord Raglan gets hopelessly confused: "Oh, tell Lord Lucan that the cavalry is to attack immediately," he signals, omitting the objective. The Light Brigade is on its way.

Any attempt to push the Serbs back to the Vance-Owen borders would mean more carnage and atrocity. One third of Serb-held land would have to be captured and held indefinitely against a guerrilla army. Co-operation from Serbia's President Milosevic would vanish. This makes no sense as a war policy or a peace policy.

But if outside troops are not to retake territory, they can only garrison the Muslim havens. This is fine, until the Muslims try themselves to enforce the Vance-Owen map. (There is a wealth of murder in that map.) The havens are not passive refugee camps. They are hotbeds of Muslim revanchism. If British troops do not fight Serbs to impose the map, they will end up having to fight Muslims to stop its imposition. An awful warning is the fate of the equally fanciful UN map for the Serbian enclave of Krajina. The Croats have not won back "their" road through Krajina. The Serbs will not give it up in a hundred years. The United Nations troops will not make them. They will be killed if they try. The UN is thus the uneasy guardian of ethnic cleansing.

There is a moral alternative to these

policies, in my view the only moral intervention possible in a civil war. It is the "Ethiopia" policy of impartial relief of suffering. The aid convoys may lack camera appeal, but they do not "stand idly by". They save lives. That politicians have forgotten them does not mean they do not work.

Using soldiers to protect these convoys is one thing. Using soldiers to enforce a disputed border is quite another. It tips intervention over into war, precisely what Mr Hurd promised would not happen in Bosnia. To war there are no half-measures. The slide to total involvement is unavoidable. This is the folly.

As for Tuchman's third criterion, that a folly must be collective not individual, I fear the worst. Western action seems intent on prolonging a terrible civil war. Why? The answer must lie deep in the reflexes of political leaders, reflexes strong enough to disregard all advice. To Britain's case, the folly is that of ministers who find they are party to a collective madness and do not have the courage to say so. But then there is no cabinet government in Britain. There is only prime ministerial government. John Major could stop the nonsense. Yet he dare not openly oppose the Americans.

Mr Clinton for his part dare not concede his impotence in Bosnia, so he passes the buck to Europe. Everybody accuses everybody else of indecision. Everybody thinks themselves trapped. Nobody cares about the Balkans. This is about seeming tough. It is the curse of foreign policy.

Peter Stothard,  
Editor of *The Times*, meets  
Danish readers  
and Maastricht  
doubters

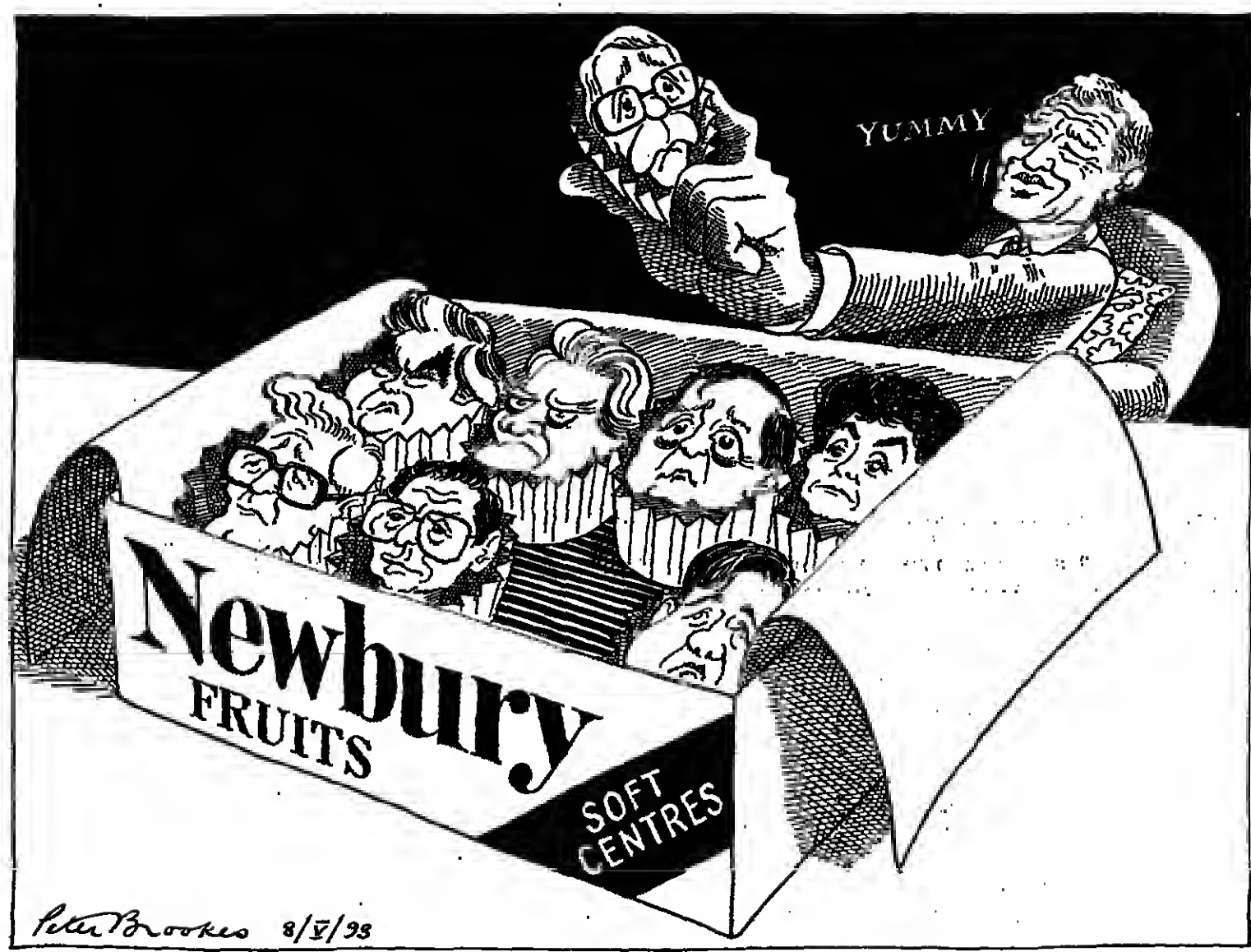
There was no political life in the Tivoli Gardens until the path reached the place where the elephants and dogs perform dances. As a small group of us stood on the clean grass verge, waiting to ask Copenhageners how they will vote in their imminent Maastricht referendum, I kept a copy of *The Times* under my arm, fearing that without some identification, I would be mistaken by visitors to the world's most civilised funfair for a man selling English holidays or giving away ghost-ride tickets.

The play was not necessary. A young man reacted almost immediately. "Ah, *The Times*," he said. "The Great Danes. Very good." I looked back at him in surprise. The dogs whose daily duty at Tivoli is to drape their tails around the jumbos' trunks are not Great Danes but St Bernards. And if speakers of Danish wish to refer to a large rangy dog with a short coat they use French, *un Danois*. The reference, it transpired, was to nothing canine but to the title of a *Times* leading article in March, which argued that the people of Denmark, for their sake and ours, should again vote "no" to Maastricht.

It would be encouraging to think that the Editor of *The Times* could stand in St James's Park, mention the heading of one of his prized editorials, and receive immediate recognition. One might, however, wait some time for what at Tivoli came as quickly as an elephant eats a bun.

True, this article had received some publicity. Since only one out of almost 50 Danish newspapers opposes the Maastricht treaty, our editorial had been translated by a Copenhagen daily, and its message had been promulgated by campaigners for another "no" to match the unexpected "nej" last June.

With the Editor of *The Sunday Telegraph*, Charles Moore, had gone to Denmark to help explain to doubting Danes that they were not alone in their doubts. We had just addressed a small press conference —



a curious experience for one more accustomed to asking the questions — and I had been introduced as "the man who gave you the Great Danes".

*The Times* has, it is true, spent probably more effort on Denmark in the past few months than at any time since we supported the Danish cause in the 1860s squabbles with Prussia over Schleswig-Holstein. Sadly, however, as Mr Moore pointed out, promises from Britain then turned out to be worth little against Prussian power. So we discouraged our listeners from taking too much hope from the admiration for Denmark's stance that the readers of both our newspapers have expressed.

The Danes wanted to be assured that Britain would stand by them if they voted "no", and that John Major and Douglas Hurd would not simply

exclude them from a "son of Maastricht" deal with the rest of the Community. It was impossible to give such an assurance; possible only to say that the British government's weakness, shown in yesterday's election results, would make any such action very difficult. This did not seem reassurance enough; once the results from Newbury are broadcast in Copenhagen, the prospect may seem a little better.

The questioners wanted to know if Britons too were worried by the threat to their national sovereignty and identity from the pressure for political union. I reported that many of our readers indeed took that view. One supporter of a referendum for Britain, telephoning from Newbury itself a few weeks ago, praised the Great Danes leader, and recalled the bene-

fits brought to English life by the rule of King Canute. Perhaps the Danes might do a similar service to northern European values again, she said.

As for other Great Danes? The father of existential philosophy, Søren Kierkegaard wrote a book called *Fear and Trembling*, which certainly reflects the attitude of the political leaders today who confidently expected a "yes" last June. A young teacher in the audience argued that Kierkegaard, an opponent of German philosophical ideas, would have backed the "no" campaign, but that sadly the great old man is not as influential as he once was.

In this second referendum campaign, the "yes" supporters have been much more skilful. The polls, though narrowing, still gave them an 11-point lead yesterday. Since

Danes trust British names more than Dutch ones, it is surprisingly common to hear about Edinburgh (the summit at which John Major organised the so-called Danish opt-outs), and surprisingly less common to hear anything about Maastricht. The European Community (which is popular) is praised; European union is scarcely ever mentioned. The empty threats of job losses after a "no" vote have been dropped; a generalised vision of prosperity is offered if the vote is "yes".

Exactly 150 years ago, according to Baedeker, the Danish King founded his pioneering amusement park because "if the people are kept amused they do not get involved in politics". This is now a Tivoli Gardens campaign of which King Christian would enthusiastically have approved.

## In memoriam

BLOODED and bowed they may be, but Newbury Tories will not be sinking into a dark corner to lick their wounds — not yet awhile. Instead, they will be out in force today at the memorial service for Sir Michael McNair-Wilson, Tory MP for the Berkshire town from 1974 to 1992.

The timing is cruel, but McNair-Wilson's family and friends are determined to make the service a celebration. To that end, the organisers have decided that not a word will be uttered from the pulpit of St Nicholas's about the humiliating by-election result. McNair-Wilson, who had a 17,000 majority the last time he defended the seat, died shortly after the Tories made their ill-fated decision to pick Julian Davidson.

Sir Richard Body, Tory MP for Holland-with-Boston but a fellow Newbury resident, spent last night working on a tribute to his long-standing friend.

"It would not be right to talk about the defeat. The service is intended to honour a fine

gentleman who I was privileged to know as a friend and colleague," Body says. "Michael would have been deeply disappointed and saddened by the result."

While taken aback by the scale of the defeat, Body says that he was not surprised. "The moment Norman Lamont came to Newbury declaring that he had no regrets I knew we had lost it."

His brother Sir Patrick McNair-Wilson, MP for New Forest, said: "The result would have been a personal tragedy for Mickey who fought so hard to win this seat having been selected the day Edward Heath called the February 1974 election. He kept the Liberals at bay by only 1,000 votes."

Lord Tebbit's latest intervention on Maastricht did not go un-noted. Seen at yesterday's launch in the House of Lords of a new pamphlet was Laura Adhead, Europe officer in the research department of Conservative Central Office, or Miss Maastricht for

short. Adhead was spotted at the door jotting down the names of everyone there. A day earlier one could have been certain she was compiling a blacklist of unsound Euro-sceptics. Post-Newbury, perhaps she was hoping to spot someone electable.

### Slice of luck

A 60-YEAR-OLD tradition, which started with the Australian cricket captain Sir Donald Bradman, will be continued today thanks to a deep freeze. Bradman, taken ill during a tour match with Somerset in the 1930s, was revived with a traditional whortle-



## DIARY

berry pie at the Castle Hotel, Taunton, where the team was staying.

Ever since, the Australian team captain is presented with a pie when the team stays there. But with the Australians arriving this weekend, for their match with Somerset, the hotel was stumped. The whortleberry, which grows on the Cheddar hills, is out of season.

Kit Chapman, managing director, whose family has owned the hotel since Bradman's visit, says: "Not wishing to create an international incident, we put out an appeal. Somerset folk rallied round and a man arrived in the hotel today with five pounds from his deep freezer." Allan Border, the captain, will be expected to eat the first slice tonight. Kit says: "It will be served with clotted cream,

so we hope they eat rather a lot. It might give our boys a better chance on the pitch."

### Classless?

COULD academic failings be the cause of the Tory's miserable performance? We are still little the wiser about John Major's O levels, and now there appear to be question marks hanging over his Cambridge-dominated cabinet.

This week's edition of *Varsity*, Cambridge University's newspaper, publishes the degrees of its better-known alumni in a feature which kicks off "Want to be chairman of the Conservative party? Then fret not about Sir Norman Fowler, it points out, came away from Cambridge with far from distinguished 3rd Class Honours in Law. Michael Howard, the

Environment Secretary, fared little better with a 2.2; and Norman Lamont, who has admitted to difficulty in distinguishing threes from fives, notched up a 3rd in English Part I, and a lacklustre 2.2 — in Economics.

### Poll position

MOST political experts were left with egg on their face over the size of the Liberal Democrat majority, but the BBC was taking no chances. After the fiasco of the last two general election exit polls, which were both wildly wrong, the BBC decided enough was enough. There would be no Newbury exit poll — at least publicly.

Privately, however, the BBC did commission a poll from NOP, which presided over the two general election exit surveys. Its purpose was to try to discover what went wrong last time, but alas the result will never be made public.

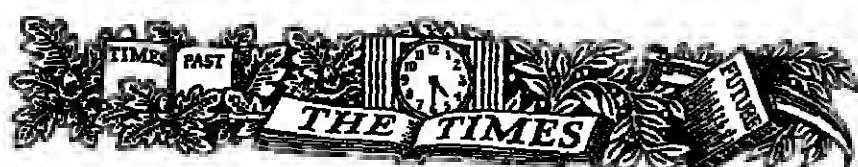


## Gap in the credits

NOT sufficient ado, it seems, at the British Film Institute, which will celebrate the centenary of cinema next year by publishing *A Day in the Life of World Cinema*. The book will be a compilation of diaries kept by film people on June 10. Movie notables such as Sir Anthony Hopkins, Sir Richard Attenborough and Charlotte Rampling (left) have offered to contribute. But invitations to Kenneth Branagh (right), the great white hope of British cinema, have met with a blank. A discreet Janet Willis from

the BFI says: "We have sent invitations to Renaissance but there has been no answer. I would like to feel he would want to do it because he is a leading figure." Branagh is in America promoting *Much Ado About Nothing*, but a Renaissance spokeswoman pleads ignorance. "I haven't seen any invitations. Did they send them to the right place? He's on holiday then, and it would depend on his schedule whether he could do it. But it is the kind of thing he might do. They only have to ask."





## THE BIG IF

If John Major is to recover he must start by admitting the truth

"I don't think you can be humiliated by democracy," declared John Major yesterday. If Thursday night's election results did not constitute humiliation for the government, it is hard to imagine what would. In the first opportunity that voters have had to register an opinion since the general election, they have cast the Conservatives out of every English and Welsh shire county except Buckinghamshire. The voters of Newbury gave the Liberal Democrats not just the 12.5 per cent swing needed to oust the Tory candidate, but 28.4 per cent. A Gallup poll for *The Daily Telegraph* found Mr Major's the most unpopular administration since the second world war.

Although the significance of by-election results can be exaggerated, let it not now be said that they make no difference. Had David Rendell simply scraped in at Newbury with a slim majority, the result might have been dismissed as a protest vote on the scale of Eastbourne in the last parliament. But to replace a 12,000 Tory majority with a 22,000 Liberal Democrat lead shows a level of political indignation that cannot be ignored. Coupled with the worst local election results for the Conservatives since local government was reorganised 20 years ago, Thursday night evidenced a level of dissatisfaction with the governing classes seen up until now only on the Continent.

Britain has finally caught up with its European partners. The French, Germans, Italians and Spanish have already shown their exasperation with tired, dishonest and corrupt politicians. Britain's ruling classes may not benefit financially from their jobs, but in other respects they have become hardly less reprehensible than their Continental colleagues. Ministers' consistent dishonesty about the causes of the recession, their weaselling words from Maastricht to Matrix Churchill, have turned the voters of Britain against them.

It is tempting simply to put the government's humiliation down to "the economy, stupid", in the words of Bill Clinton's advisers. But the electorate is more sophisticated than that. Yes, people have paid dearly for the recession. Of course they resent it. But what annoys even more is the government's attitude towards it: the evasion of blame for prolonging the recession beyond its natural life by keeping the pound in the exchange-rate mechanism, the attempts to claim that recovery was under way before that policy was involuntarily reversed, and the rush to gain credit for a recovery caused by devaluation and low interest rates that went against all the previous tenets of the Chancellor and the prime minister. Most infuriating of all, these two men are still gaily in office — with no regrets.

Voters have not even been able to gain consolation from good government in other areas of policy. About Bosnia, ministers seem paralysed. On Maastricht, they are prepared to override the will of Parliament and determined not to test the will of the people. Necessary and radical reforms, such as the raising of the retirement age for women, are shelved because they might prove unpopular. The introduction of testing in schools has been so mismanaged that it has engendered a revolt almost on the scale of the poll tax. In yesterday's Gallup poll, respondents were asked to mark the government's performance on a scale of A to F, where F means fail. More voters gave it F than any other grade.

Should the opposition parties therefore be jubilant? The Liberal Democrats, with their 381 new seats and two new councils on top of Newbury's sensational result have good reason to be. Labour made fewer gains, but now controls 14 counties to the Conservatives' one, and won roughly 10 percentage points more votes.

John Smith was rash, however, to send

such negative signals to those who hope for more co-operation between the two opposition parties. Even if electoral pacts are not sanctioned by the party leaders, they are happening on the ground. Only rarely on Thursday did they consist of one candidate actually stepping down in favour of another. But party campaigning is now far more targeted than in 1985, the last time elections were held in the shires. Voters are canny in choosing the opposition candidate most likely to dislodge the Tory. As a result, the Conservatives won about the same share of the vote as in 1985 but lost 473 seats.

Party leaders often oppose electoral pacts on the grounds that it would be unfair and unworkable to impose them from the centre. These local elections showed, though, that the impetus for pacts is welling up from below. Mr Smith must swallow some pride if he is to sanction such local agreements. Inevitably, they will be more successful when Labour gives way to the Liberal Democrats than the other way round, since Labour voters are more likely to shift en masse to the Liberal Democrats. Centre party support would split almost evenly between the two main parties. But they need not be on a massive scale: just ten seats in which the opposition vote was not split at the last election would have deprived the Tories of their majority. Maybe Labour would, as Mr Smith claimed, have won a general election on its own on the basis of yesterday's results. But this is 1993, not 1996 or 1997.

The Conservatives should still be worried about the increasing sophistication of voters and local activists. For three general elections in a row, they have benefited from a divided opposition. This week has shown that, if disaffection is running high enough, voters will not let such divisions stand in their way. This disgust will not easily be shaken off. In Gallup's poll, 81 per cent of people said the government did not inspire confidence. The Major administration has now broken the record previously held by Harold Wilson since 1968 for the low esteem in which it is held. Whatever ministers think, economic recovery, or indeed the ratification of Maastricht, will not in themselves be enough to float the government off the rocks.

Yet a reshuffle for its own sake would not even be cosmetic. Most of the faces in the cabinet look tired. Cabinet ministers are concerned mainly to protect their own positions in the event of a change of leadership. Moreover, unlike in the 1980s, there are few talented ministers of state ready to replace them. Voters have shown that they want honesty. The prime minister went some way to meeting this desire yesterday when he admitted that people feel bruised and hurt. If he is to regain their trust — and that is a very big "if" today — he cannot go on running his government on the basis of the lie that he and his Chancellor were right all along about the economy.

It is hard to see how Norman Lamont can help as Chancellor now. He cannot credibly claim any credit for the recovery. A new man, Kenneth Clarke perhaps, could honestly admit past errors, apologise for them, and then throw himself into the task of ensuring that the economy returns to growth. This would include promising not to rejoin the ERM.

The Major-Lamont partnership has managed to inspire confidence neither in the country nor in the party. A Major-Clarke team might just be able to do so. Mr Clarke, unlike Mr Lamont, deals robustly with criticism, and has no compunction about reversing ill thought-out policies, as he has shown with the Criminal Justice Act. The current prime minister and Chancellor have dealt with public concern by denying its existence. The lesson from Thursday night is that it has to be addressed, directly.

## RETIRING UNDEFEATED

Divorced wives should have a share of their husbands' pensions

A married woman, who may have spent much of her adult life assuming that her retirement was provided for, ought not to be abandoned to a pauperised old age by the departure of her husband. Thus, the ground-breaking ruling made by a High Court judge this week that a divorced man's pension scheme should be altered to make immediate provision for his former wife, is to be welcomed.

When a married man's job provides him with a pension, the security that it offers for his retirement is naturally extended to his wife. Her husband's contributions to a company pension scheme are presumed by both of them to be providing for their shared old age. But if and when a marriage ended — until this week — the income that was planned for their retirement together became the exclusive property of the man.

English law has not, before now, regarded pensions as being part of a divorcing couple's joint wealth. In dividing the worldly assets of a marriage when it ends, divorce courts have considered capital and property — but not pension funds — to be jointly owned. The logic of this may have been based on the fact that a pension is not a realisable asset at the time of divorce. By this reasoning, it constitutes not a part of the household's present wealth but of the husband's future earnings.

There was also the difficulty of quantifying the pension share of a wife who had not herself contributed to the scheme — or of a non-working wife. How much can a woman be said to have been responsible — by carrying out her duties in the home — for

making her husband's working life (and consequent pension) possible? This kind of reckoning should not have been an insoluble problem. The contribution of a wife as homemaker to the overall financial position of the marriage is already taken into account when computing the family wealth for a divorce settlement.

Although she may never have earned at all or earned much less than her husband, a wife was still regarded as half-owner of all the assets that the couple possessed. Thus, the lack of any claim to a pension which her husband had earned during the course of their life together was clearly anomalous. Pension-splitting between divorced couples already happens under Scottish law. This should have made the case for its practicability unanswerable. The government had still, however, failed to act to change the English system. This individual court decision has now changed the law and with it, as one lawyer has been quoted as saying, "the face of divorce".

The ramifications of this precedent will now have to be explored. The new rule should presumably apply only to marriages of sufficiently long-standing for the wife to have had a legitimate expectation that her retirement was provided for. The wife's age and independent earning power may also need to be a consideration as they already are for the purpose of alimony payments. Complications may arise if the husband has remarried, when a present and former wife may both be eligible for a share of a man's pension. But the fundamental principle is consistent with sensible divorce reform.

## The targets and goals in Bosnia

From Major General R. S. N. Mans

Sir, Your editorial criticism ("A gift to the Serbs", April 29) of Field Marshal Vincent for enunciating the need for clear political direction before any military action is taken in Bosnia is unjustified.

Indeed, in the same issue, your defence correspondent sets out clearly the positive disadvantages of the options for air strikes. He might have added that any resulting casualties to civilians would not doubt be brought to us by TV commentators in the same vivid terms as the atrocities committed by all sides in Bosnia.

The US Chief of Air Staff's comment to a Senate committee that bombing could be undertaken with no significant risk (report, April 29) must be viewed with scepticism, for it accords with the long-established controversial philosophy of the USAF. Saturation bombing failed to defeat the enemy in Vietnam, and even in the Gulf, where optimum operational conditions pertained, civilian casualties occurred.

In recent times we have twice committed our armed forces to battle with clear political and military objectives: regaining the Falklands and expelling the invader from Kuwait. We should not now contemplate giving them the invidious and nebulous task of intervening in a civil war, however much we may abhor the conduct of those taking part. It is time that the military risks should be clearly stated by the chairman of the NATO military committee.

Yours sincerely,  
ROWLEY MANS,  
Ivy Bank Cottage, Vinegar Hill,  
Millford-on-Sea, Hampshire.  
May 2.

From Sir Philip Goodhart

Sir, The rejection of the latest peace proposals by the Bosnian Serbs underlines, once again, the ineffectiveness of ordinary economic sanctions. Not even the Bosnian Serbs, however, can operate for long without petrol and electricity. The international community, operating through Nato and the United Nations, should now strike directly at the power stations and petrol supply points that the Bosnian Serbs depend upon — whether those power stations and supply points are in Bosnia or Serbia.

The attack should be carried out with air or sea-launched cruise missiles, which could be fired outside Bosnian or Serbian air space so that Allied forces would not be put directly at risk. The Bosnians could be warned which power stations and supply points would be hit, so that those working at the installations could be evacuated. If all went according to plan, no one need be killed.

Yours faithfully,  
PHILIP GOODHART,  
Carion Club,  
69 St James's Street, SW1.  
May 6.

From Air Commodore

M. J. C. Burton (RAF ret'd)

Sir, There are many military issues in Bosnia which have to be taken into consideration before committing Nato forces, including logistic support of our forces, rules of engagement, command and control, the importance of minimising our own casualties and the need to limit the military action in both time and space. Hence there is an urgent need for politicians to identify the political goals and to approve concise military objectives and plans subsequently prepared by the commanders.

Furthermore, assuming that all the Serb forces do put down their arms, do you really believe that the Muslim and Croat forces will not subsequently seek revenge?

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BURTON,  
43 Pall Mall, St James's, SW1.  
May 2.

## Swinging Forties

From Mr John Mendes

Sir, With the birth of Virgin 1215 (report, April 29), I wonder how many readers recall a pop station that came long before Caroline and the 1960s pirates? At the end of the second world war in Europe the American military set up the American Forces Network (AFN Munich-Stuttgart) and every night there was a programme called *Midnight in Munich*, which opened with Charlie Barnet's "Skyliner". Reception was indifferent in the UK but tens of thousands of teenagers sat up for something they had never heard before — a totally unstructured and free-wheeling programme, in which the disc jockey would play a record twice running if he particularly liked it, while visitors wandered in and out of the studio to drink his coffee and smoke his cigarettes and pass the time of night. Not even the pirates achieved that kind of spontaneity.

The music, of course, was big band swing, the pop of the period but seldom aired by the BBC, which was still at the stage of putting out what it sniffily called "dance music" and with a bored announcer reading from a script: "And now, by way of a complete contrast, the band will play a jolly little novelty number."

Yours faithfully,  
JOHN MENDES,  
1 Lower Street, Cavendish, Suffolk.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

### A future for St Ethelburga's and its value to the City

From the Chairman of the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings

Sir, Before the IRA bomb went off on April 24, St Ethelburga's in Bishopsgate (letters, April 29, May 3) was an exceptionally attractive little medieval church, full of good fittings both old and new. Sadly, the one thing that it lacked was a congregation; the diocese of London was considering it for redundancy.

Whether or not St Ethelburga's is rebuilt as a farmhouse or in a contemporary style is hardly relevant, because neither solution would provide the people to give a full and meaningful life to the new building as a church.

This society believes that the most positive outcome of the tragedy would be to develop the site as an open space for City workers, within which the remains of the medieval church could be left as a memorial to those who have lost their lives as a result of terrorist attacks the world over.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES BOUTWOOD,  
Chairman,  
The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings,  
37 Spital Square, E1.  
May 5.

From Prebendary Dr Chad Varah,  
Rector of St Stephen Walbrook

Sir, Some months ago the Bishop of London appointed a commission under Lord Templeman to enquire into the present state and future mission of the City churches. City rectors like myself, and guild church vicars, and our flocks, have had several opportunities to give evidence to it.

Lord Templeman's purpose is to see how the Church may best serve the spiritual needs of the City. Decisions about St Ethelburga's, a guild church, ought to be made after the bishop delivers his report later this year.

Instant pundits wishing instead to make a "gesture of defiance" to terrorists will, I am sure, not impress Lord Templeman or the bishop.

Yours faithfully,  
CHAD VARAH,  
The Lord Mayor's Parish Church of St Stephen Walbrook, EC4.  
April 30.

From the Reverend F. H. Stevens

Sir, I feel compelled to question the judgment of those who are so governed by emotion and a false sense of tradition, and even spirituality, as to believe that the rebuilding and preservation of a redundant church —



one of 39 churches in the City square mile — can even be contemplated within the context of true Christianity and a concern for the spreading and practice of the Gospel message.

I write as a member of a parish church which is attended every Sunday by 200-300 worshippers who are finding it difficult, in spite of valiant efforts, to pay the ever-increasing quota and to raise £150,000 for restoration work on the fabric of the church. There are hundreds of such churches in the country, in both towns and rural areas.

New churches need to be built in dockland areas and in new centres of population where no church exists at present. The Church badly needs money to build Christian hostels for the shelter of young people sleeping rough.

There are a dozen other needs to which funds could and should be allocated, if they were available, to implement the aims and ideals of the Church's decade of evangelism.

Yours faithfully,  
FRANK STEVENS,  
14 Eastgate Gardens,  
Taunton, Somerset.  
May 3.

From Mrs A. K. Spence

Sir, On April 27 one of your articles on the devastated church of St Ethelburga referred to the fact that in 1607 the great explorer Henry Hudson, charged with finding the north-

west passage to Japan and China, took Holy Communion with his crew there, shortly before embarking on his first voyage. Three stained-glass windows by Leonard Walker, RI, were placed in the church in Hudson's memory in the late 1920s. They are now, alas, destroyed.

My mother, the artist D. Radcliffe Beresford, painted a picture of the first of these windows (illustrated, left) for the Hudson's Bay Company in 1928. Subsequently she painted two large panels for the company's headquarters. One showed Henry Hudson and his crew members taking Communion; the other depicted him with his son and seven other seamen in a small shallow arctic ice floe, set adrift "without food, drink, fire, clothing or other necessities" (Henry Hudson by Llewellyn Powys, 1927) by his starving and mutinous crew.

This historical connection of the smallest of City churches — even in Jacobean times hemmed in by secular buildings — with the vast expanse of Hudson's Bay and northern Canada may be of interest not only in England but also on the other side of the Atlantic. It provides yet another reason for the full restoration of St Ethelburga's.

Yours faithfully,  
AVERIL K. SPENCE,  
Old Heath, Hillbrook Road,  
Liss, Hampshire.  
May 4.

From Ms C. R. M. Stevens

Sir, As a worshipper at the church of St Ethelburga for many years, and one of its churchwardens from 1976 to 1986, I am convinced that this tranquil oasis in the heart of the City should be rebuilt as a replica of the original, with as many of the original parts as can be identified and re-assembled.

There should be no shame in including a modern copy where the former item cannot be salvaged. In Japan, for instance, there are many shrines and temples, often thought to be centuries old: the Ise shrine near Nagoya is rebuilt at regular intervals, and the Kinkakuji temple in Kyoto was rebuilt after destruction by fire. They are both exact copies.

Only thus will present and future generations be able to see for themselves this historic building as it had stood since before the Great Fire.

I remain, Sir, yours faithfully,  
CHERRY STEVENS,  
2 Highnam Road,  
Woodford Green, Essex.  
May 3.

### In defence of Nadir

From Dr Peter Greenhalgh

Sir, There is a lot of self-righteous hubbub in the universal condemnation of Asil Nadir (reports, May 5-7). "How are the mighty fallen!" is a particularly satisfying exclamation for second-raters who could never stand the sight of a self-made man, especially a "jumped-up foreigner", creating a business empire which was as far beyond their wildest dreams as their competence to emulate it.

It is true that profits were inflated by the policy of writing off exchange losses to the balance sheet rather than to the profit-and-loss account for the year, but there was no secret about this. It was perfectly clear from the published accounts, and if City analysts and highly paid fund managers chose to ignore it or failed to notice it, it may say more about their own greed or incompetence than Nadir's.

He seems to have been neither a fiddler of pension funds nor a cynical promoter of South Sea bubbles. He built some solid businesses, making good products and employing many thousands of people, often (though not solely) in poor countries, like Turkey and Northern Cyprus, which desperately needed industrial development.

Whatever wrong he may turn out to have done in trying to save his empire when he had over-extended it — and that has yet to be proved, despite so

many months of apparent wavering by the Serious Fraud Office at, no doubt, fearful cost to the taxpayer and mental anguish to him — it would surely have to have been something very wicked indeed to counterbalance all the good he has done.

As a former merchant banker, I remember him as a man of great kindness and untrumped generosity to many good causes, as well as a great businessman who gave work and a decent life to countless thousands of ordinary people in many parts of the world.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER GREENHALGH,  
138 Humber Road,  
Blackheath, SE3.  
May 7.

From Miss Christine N. Reeves

Sir, In view of the hundreds of thousands of pounds Asil Nadir has saved the British taxpayer by fleeing before his trial, I suggest a small statue be erected in his honour.

I further suggest that this should be sited in the middle of an ornamental fountain. The waters of this fountain would symbolise tears, that will be shed by the lawyers over the loss of their fair fees.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTINE N. REEVES,  
143 Lower Richmond Road, SW15.  
May 7.

### Toxic waste issue

From the Managing Director of Rechem International Ltd

Sir, It is no surprise that Greenpeace (letter, May 6) does not agree with Welsh secretary David Hunt's conclusions of reassurance from the Welsh Office study into PCBs (polychlorinated biphenyls) and dioxins around the area of the Rechem International high-temperature incineration plant near Pontypool, South Wales.

This two-year study by an independent team from the University of East Anglia, and overseen by Professor Lewis Roberts, was one of the most intensive studies ever carried out in any areas focused on a single plant. No levels were found of either

environmental or health concern or, indeed, levels that were higher than those that were found around other industrial areas throughout the UK where no incinerators were sited.

I can show Greenpeace a recent scientific study revealing levels of PCBs in recycled paper products, including envelopes to be licked and sealed, at least ten times those found anywhere around the Rechem site.

Our role is to eradicate pollution, not to propagate it, and that we shall continue to do.

Yours faithfully,  
M. C. E. AVERILL,  
Managing Director,  
Rechem International Ltd,  
Astor House, Station Road,  
Bourne End, Buckinghamshire.

### Fond memories

From Mr Vivian Wales

Sir, So Mrs Craven's sister (letter, May 4) wishes to be remembered for the grave she made. Although a keen advocate of recycling, I draw the line at being reduced to grave — presumably before the remains are turned into bone meal.

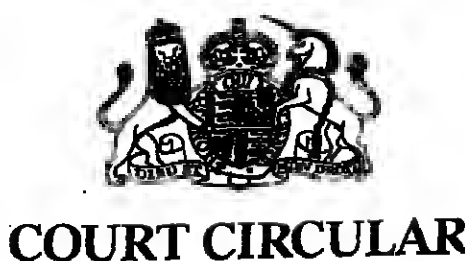
Yours faithfully,  
VIVIAN WALES,  
Bay Trees, Green Street,  
Brockworth, Gloucestershire.  
May 4.

From Mr Philip Wake

Sir, I had always hoped that on the day I die people will say about me (as Mary said of Winterborne in Hardy's *Woodlanders*) that he "was a good man, and did good things" — but I think I have left it too late and shall look down and listen in vain.

Yours sincerely,  
PHILIP WAKE,  
Whitstone Lane, Lee,  
Ilfracombe, Devon.





## COURT CIRCULAR

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
May 7: Professor Sir Norman Blacklock was received by The Queen when Her Majesty conferred upon him the honour of a Knight Commander of the Royal Victorian Order.

The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh arrived at Heathrow Airport, London, this afternoon from a State Visit to Hungary and were received at the Airport by the Earl of Arlcliffe, Lt Lord Chamberlain and Mr Michael Roberts (Managing Director, Heathrow Airport).

The following were in attendance: the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (the Rt Hon Douglas Hurd) and the Hon Mrs Douglas Hurd, the Lady Elizabeth, the Hon Sir Robert Fellowes, Major General Sir Simon Cooper, Mr Robin Jarvin, Mr Charles Anson, Professor Sir Norman Blacklock, Major James Patrick, Brigadier Miles Hunt-Davis, Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Meynell and Mr John Savers.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
May 7: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, today gave a luncheon at Buckingham Palace.

**BUCKINGHAM PALACE**  
May 7: The Prince Royal, President, Animal Health Trust, this morning opened the Waltham Centre for Pet Nutrition, Waltham-on-the-Hill, Melton Mowbray, and was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Leicestershire (Mr Timothy Brooks).

Her Royal Highness, President,

British Knitting and Clothing Export Council, this afternoon visited Nylon Hosiery Company Limited, 46 Upper Bond Street, Huddersley.

Mrs William Nunnally was in attendance.

**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
May 7: The Prince of Wales was represented by Lieutenant Colonel Sir John Miller at the Funeral of Major Charles Humphrey which was held in St Andrew's Church, Ouston, Leicestershire, today.

**KENSINGTON PALACE**  
May 7: The Princess of Wales, Patron, British Red Cross Youth, this morning attended the launch of the International Red Cross World Disaster Report, British Red Cross National Headquarters, 9 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1.

Mr Patrick Jephson was in attendance.

**YORK HOUSE**  
**ST JAMES'S PALACE**  
May 7: The Duke of Kent, Patron, the London Philharmonic, today received Mr Elliott Bernard, Chairman.

The Duchess of Kent this morning opened the Ronald MacDonald House at the Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Eton Road, Liverpool and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant for Merseyside (Mr Henry Cotton).

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the League of Well-Doers, Limekiln Lane, Liverpool and later visited the Hillsborough Heart Ward, Antrim Hospital, Merseyside (Mr Henry Cotton).

Mrs Colin Marsh was in attendance.

## Anniversaries

**TODAY**  
BIRTHS: Francis Quarles, poet, Romford, Essex, 1922; Alan Kené Le Sage, novelist, Sarnen, Britain, 1968; Giovanni Paisiello, composer, Taranto, Italy, 1741; William Jay, dissenting minister, Tisbury, Wiltshire, 1769; Thomas Hancock, pioneer of the rubber industry, Madbury, Wiltshire, 1786; Jean Henri Dumont, founder of the International Yacht Club, Geneva, 1828; Nevill Slidgwick, chemist, Oxford, 1873; Harry S. Truman, 33rd American President 1945-53, Lamar, Missouri, 1884; Sidney James, actor, Johannesburg, 1914.

**DEATHS:** Antoine Lavoisier, chemist, executed, Paris, 1794; John Stuart Mill, philosopher, Avignon, 1873; Gustave Flaubert, novelist, Croissy, France, 1880; Paul Gauguin, painter, Atuana, Marquesas Islands, 1903; Edward Maybridge, photographer and pioneer of the study of animal locomotion, Kingston-upon-Thames, 1904; Oswald Spengler, philosopher, Munich, 1936; Harry Gordon Selfridge, founder of the London store, London, 1947; Emmanuel Shirewell, Baron Shirewell, statesman, London, 1986.

Restoration of the British monarchy, 1660.

VE (Victory in Europe) Day, 1945.

**TOMORROW**  
BIRTHS: George Papworth, architect, 1781; John Brown, militant Abolitionist, Torrington, Connecticut, 1800; Adolf Schreyer, animal painter, Frankfurt-am-Main, 1828; Sir James Barrie, dramatist and novelist, Kirriemuir, 1860; Lilian Baylis, founder of the Old Vic and Sadler's Wells, London, 1874; Zita, former empress of Austria, Viareggio, 1892; Howard Carter, archaeologist, discoverer of the tomb of Tutankhamun, 1922; Swaffham, Norfolk, 1874; José Ortega y Gasset, philosopher, Madrid, 1983; Barbara Woodhouse, animal trainer, Dublin, 1910.

**DEATHS:** William Bradford, Pittman Faber, Plymouth, Massachusetts, 1657; Nicolai Zinzendorf, leader of the Moravian Church, Herrnhut, Germany, 1760; Johann Christoph Friedrich von Schiller, dramatist and poet, Weimar, Germany, 1805; Joseph Gay-Lussac, chemist, Paris, 1846; Aldo Moro, five times Prime Minister of Italy, assassinated, Rome, 1978; Tenzing Norgay, Himalayan climber, Darjeeling, 1986.

Ethiopia annexed by Italy, 1936.

The Channel Islands were liberated from German occupation, 1945.

## Royal engagements

**TODAY:** Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group will visit the "Challenge 93" to be held at Normanby Hall, Southport, Humberside at 2.30; and, as Patron of the London Mozart Players, will attend a concert at the Fairfield Hall, Croydon, at 7.50.

The Prince Royal, as Patron of the Royal Yacht Club, will open the club's new waterfront at Bath Road at 1.30.

**TOMORROW:** Prince Edward, as Chairman of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Special Projects Group, will attend the Wine Magazine and National Week Festival at Chelsea Harbour at 1.50.

The Princess Royal, as Colonel-in-Chief of The King's Royal Hussars, will review The Combined Cavalry "Old Comrades" parade in Hyde Park at 11.05 and lay a wreath at the Cavalry memorial; and will attend the first regional association luncheon at the Inter-Continental Hotel at 12.20.

The Duchess of Kent, as patron, will attend a concert at Hull University at 7.00 in aid of the Jacqueline du Pré Memorial Fund.

## Service lunches

**HMS Victory**  
Admiral Sir John Kerr, Commander-in-Chief Naval Home Command, and Lady Kerr were hosts yesterday at a luncheon held on board the flagship HMS Victory in Portsmouth to mark the commissioning of HMS Bristol as a sea cadet training ship. Admiral Sir Ian Hogg, the ship's sponsor, and Lady Hogg, the Lord Mayor and Lady Mayores of Bristol and Vice-Admiral Sir James Heathcote, Chairman of the Sea Cadet Corps, were present.

4th British Division (1939-1945) Club

General Sir Geoffrey Mouson presided at the annual reunion luncheon of the 4th British Division (1939-1945) Club held at the New Cavendish Hotel.

## School news

**St Paul's Girls' School**  
St Paul's Girls' School announces the results of the 1992-93 school year. First Year Award: Francesca Farrell, St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Epsom, Surrey; and second year award: Francesca Farrell, St Peter's Church of England Primary School, Epsom, Surrey.

**Mr B. Adlam and Miss L.A. Hirsch**  
The engagement is announced between Boris, younger son of Mr G.L. Adlam, of Brides, Lumbour, and Mrs H.A.C. Adlam, of Pimlico, London, and Lindsay, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs B.L. Hirsch, of Bel-Air, Los Angeles.

**Mr M.H. Coombe-Tennant and Miss G. Woods**  
The engagement is announced between Mark, younger son of Mr and Mrs David Lloyd-Coombe-Tennant, of Chiddingfold, Surrey, and Georgina, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Desmond Woods, of West Beach, Adelaide, South Australia.

**The Rev C.M. Green and Miss S.J. White**  
The engagement is announced between Christopher, son of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Green, of Verwood, Dorset, and Charlotte, daughter of the late Mr Kenneth White and of Mrs Barbara Marsden, of Cheddar, Cheshire.

## Memorial services

**Mr F.O.A.G. Bennett**  
A service of thanksgiving for the life of Mr F.O.A.G. (Alex) Bennett was held yesterday in Canterbury Cathedral. The Rev Nicholas Russell officiated. Mr James Bennett, son, and Mr Andrew Hone, grandson, read the lessons. Mr Sam Whitehead gave an address.

**Mr Richard Innes**  
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Richard Innes was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev Ernest Rea, Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC, officiated, assisted by Frabry Norman McCurry and the Rev David Pagan. Miss Natsula Innes, daughter, and Mr Ronald Mason read the lessons.

**Mr Michael Innes**  
A service of thanksgiving for the life and work of Mr Michael Innes was held yesterday at St James's, Piccadilly. The Rev Ernest Rea, Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC, officiated, assisted by Frabry Norman McCurry and the Rev David Pagan. Miss Natsula Innes, daughter, and Mr Ronald Mason read the lessons.

## Memorial Mass

**Mr Cyril Conway**  
A memorial mass for Mr Cyril Conway (Koo-Liter) was celebrated yesterday at the Avon Church, Corpus Christi, Covent Garden, for the late Mr Cyril Conway, who died on May 5. The service was officiated by Frabry Norman McCurry, assisted by Frabry John McDonald and Frabry Columba Ryan, OP, National Chaplain of the Catholic Stage Guild. Mr Michael Williams and Miss Patricia Hayes read the lessons. Mr Charles Pemberton read Prayers for the Actor by Dennis Vignos, and Mr Robin Marchant gave an address.

## Church services tomorrow

**Howells, Drop, drop, slow tears**  
(Hymn), Organ: Pagan (Howells).  
**WESTMINSTER ABBEY** 10.15 AM. Rev Dr David Howells. 11 AM. Rev Dr David Howells. 11.15 AM. Rev Dr David Howells. 11.30 AM. Rev Dr David Howells. 11.45 AM. Rev Dr David Howells. 12.00 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 12.15 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 12.30 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 12.45 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 1.00 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 1.15 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 1.30 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 1.45 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 2.00 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 2.15 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 2.30 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 2.45 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 3.00 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 3.15 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 3.30 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 3.45 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 4.00 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 4.15 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 4.30 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 4.45 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 5.00 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 5.15 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 5.30 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 5.45 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 6.00 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 6.15 PM. Rev Dr David Howells. 6.30 PM. 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## SWITHIN MEADOWS



He was devoted to his wife Anne and to his two sons and two daughters, all of whom survive him.

**IRVING HOWE**

He was married three times and is survived by his last wife, Ilana, a son and a daughter.

gated, and placed upon that  
al basis which its social and civil  
vers entitle it to demand ...

"Fifty scholarships have been established of which 35 offer a free education in music, and 15 provide not only a free education, but also a maintenance for the scholars. Of these scholarships half are held by boys and half by girls. I observe with pleasure that the various districts from which these scholars are drawn indicate the widespread distribution of a taste for music, and an adequate cultivation of music throughout the United Kingdom. London, with its vast population, sends only 12 out of the 50. The remaining 38 come as follows: 28 from 14 different counties in England, two from Scotland, six from Ireland, one from Wales, and one from Jersey. The occupations of the scholars are as various as the places from which they come. I find that a mill-girl, the daughter of a brick-maker and the son of a blacksmith take high places in singing, and the son of a farm labourer in violin playing. (Hear, hear.) The capacity of these candidates has been tested by an examination of unusual severity.







DAY MAY 8 1993

STINGS

Highway 61 was celebrated in song by Bob Dylan. The stories are featured in *Tales of Rock'n'Roll* (BBC2, today, 8.30pm) ... Page 11

OPINION

The big question

The current prime minister and Chancellor have dealt with public concern by denying its existence. The lesson from Thursday night is that it has to be addressed directly ... Page 11

Retiring undefeated

The ground-breaking ruling made by a High Court judge this week that a divorced man's pension scheme should be altered to make immediate provision for his former wife, is to be welcomed ... Page 11

COLUMNS

PETER STOTHARD

The Danes want to be assured the Britain will stand by them if they vote "no", and that Mrs. Major and Douglas Hurd would not simply exclude them from a "son of Maastricht" deal with the rest of the Community. It is impossible to give such an assurance possible, say only that the government's weakness makes such action very difficult ... Page 11

SIMON JENKINS

Folly, wrote the historian Barbara Tuchman, is the failure to see the political phenomenon and the Bosnia operation was a failure in her criteria ... Page 11

LETTERS

Readers suggest that the IRA should be treated as a terrorist organisation ... Page 11

THE PAPERS

The campaign to secure the recovery of the IRA's assets, to appease the IRA's demands has not been a success, the IRA has left no stone unturned ... Page 11

PICTURE

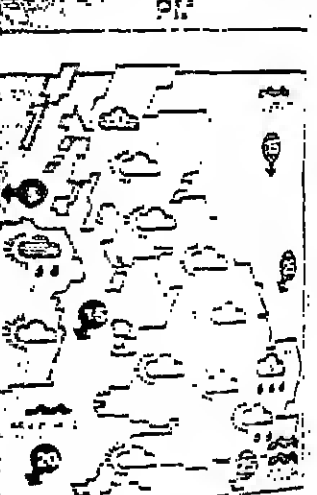


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PROFILE 23



Peter Wood dials fast-lane success in car insurance

BOXING 40



Lewis shapes up to a Tucker tirade

EQUESTRIANISM 38



Thomson clears all the obstacles

WEEKEND SPORTING FIXTURES Page 35

THE TIMES

SATURDAY MAY 8 1993

2

WEEKEND MONEY

WORRYING



Inadequate insurance cover can spell poverty for families if one partner dies before reaching retirement age Page 27

GROWING

Fund managers expect investments in emerging markets to show the most long term capital growth Page 26

EARNING



Marion Collins of Barclays Unicorn is keen to pass on earnings from scrip dividends to investors Page 26

MISLEADING



Investors are being sold unsuitable policies because they are being given too much complex information Page 27

PROFITING



Valuing houses for council tax is time well spent for estate agents who will reap the profits later Letters, page 28

THE POUND

US \$ 1.5772 (+0.0065)  
German mark 2.4886 (+0.0082)  
Exchange index 80.9 (+0.2)  
Bank of England official close (4pm)

STOCK MARKET

FT-SE 100 2793.7 (+7.4)  
Dow Jones 3442.73 (+0.83)  
Nikkei Avg. 20811.36 (+189.38)

INTEREST RATES

London Bank Base 6%  
3-month Interbank 6.57%  
US Federal Funds 2 1/4%  
3-month Treas. Bills 2.86-2.85%  
Long Bond 6.82%

CURRENCIES

New York: London: £\$ 1.5750 £\$ 1.5730  
\$DM 1.5820 \$DM 2.4846  
\$Swfr 1.4275 \$Swfr 2.2471  
\$Fr 5.3325 \$Fr 8.3760  
\$Yen 110.30 \$Yen 173.23  
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GOLD

London Fixing (\$): PM 357.50  
AM 357.50  
Close 357.50-358.00  
New York: 358.65-359.15\*

RETAIL PRICES

RPI 139.3 March (1.9%)  
\* Denotes midday trading price



Last word: Walter Dickson, the chairman of C&J Clark, who is under pressure to resign after the planned sale was thrown out

SE admits insider dealers are evading prosecution

BY MARTIN WALLER AND NEIL BENNETT

THE Stock Exchange has conceded that the rules designed to prevent insider trading need a radical overhaul to prevent criminals from escaping punishment.

The admission comes in the wake of the escalating row over apparent insider dealing in the shares of Tiphook, the transport group, before a profits warning last week that sent the shares into a nosedive.

The exchange has apparently ruled out any possible criminal dealing in the Tiphook affair, to the surprise of many market observers. A leading fund manager yesterday called for the job of investigating insider trading to be taken away from the exchange and given to the Securities and Investments Board, the City's umbrella regulatory body.

Paul Myers, chairman of Gartmore Investment Management, demanded "a more robust approach" to insider dealing investigation after the Stock Exchange told him there was nothing unusual in the sharp fall in Tiphook shares two days before the profits warning.

Gartmore has reacted by selling its 3.2 per cent stake in Tiphook following the incident, which Mr Myers says is only one of repeated examples of apparent insider trading.

"I believe we need an investigative approach to insider dealing, a greater determination to succeed and a greater use of technology," he said. "The most obvious hint of wrongdoing is any behaviour out of line with normal. The approach needs to be much more determined than at present. Investigation power should not lie with the Stock Exchange. The SIB would be more appropriate."

The Stock Exchange is believed to have abandoned its investigation into Tiphook's share price movements after concluding that the price fall was in line with the transport sector. Tiphook refused to discuss the matter last night.

The exchange is itself keen

Amid rising protests by City fund managers, the London Stock Exchange has admitted that repeated cases of insider dealing are not being prosecuted

to see the matter of insider dealing transferred to a central enforcement agency, possibly the SIB. The exchange has authority only over its member firms. It has no remit in other markets, such as derivatives, which can have an impact on share prices. Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, the chairman, is calling for a review of all the processes

governing insider trading. The City has long accepted that the offence is rare. "I think what you are seeing still are a lot of quite suspicious share price moves," said Paul Manduca, deputy managing director of Henderson Administration, the fund management firm, and chairman of the Association of Investment Trust Companies. "That suggests there are people in the know. What it doesn't suggest is who they are."

He would also like to see investigation transferred to the SIB, which would have to be strengthened to meet the challenge. "The SIB has the

authority. What we are saying is, give it the resources." Andrew Large, the chairman of the SIB, has long campaigned for an extension of the board's authority and is likely to repeat the call in a forthcoming report on self-regulation in the City to the Chancellor, whose department has the authority to bring prosecutions. City observers were privately doubtful if any review would lead to a crackdown. "If there's insider dealing, it's probably the second oldest profession," said one.

How law is broken, page 22

City anger at Tiphook slide

BY OUR DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE sharp dive in the stock market value of Tiphook, the container and trailer leasing group whose share price is no stranger to unusual gyrations, before a profits warning last month is only the latest in a long line of apparently indisputable — but ultimately unprovable — examples of insider trading.

But it was enough to trigger an angry response from Paul Myers, chairman of Gartmore Investment Management, one of the City's biggest fund managers, who believes white collar criminals are getting clean away in the Square Mile because the process intended to combat insider dealing is inefficient.

The time has long passed for a radical review of a process that is clearly not working, he wrote in a letter to the Financial Times. "I have no doubt that a more robust and structured process



Myers: change call

would be successful in identifying wrongdoers and those who act on their behalf." The news that the surveillance department of the London Stock Exchange, after a careful investigation of the matter, has apparently decided there is no case to be sent to the trade and industry department for a possible criminal prosecution only added to Mr

Myers' anger, although the reaction in the City is more likely to be one of resigned cynicism.

As reported in *The Times*, the Tiphook share price slumped 36p, or 11 per cent, on April 26 and 27, for no apparent reason.

The price has been the subject of "bear raids" in the past, a process whereby seasoned speculators attempt to drive the price downwards to make a profit by selling shares short, but the Stock Exchange had found no evidence of a concerted effort to drive the price down.

Two days later, the company said that forthcoming profits would be a fifth lower than City estimates, prompting a further slide in the shares. Tiphook said news of the profits warning was passed to UBS, the company's broker, the previous week and that there was no way the news could have leaked out.

Lamont claims manufacturing revolution

BY ROSS TIEMAN AND COLIN NARBROUGH

A REVOLUTION in British manufacturing during the 1980s has set the economy on course for "growth sustained for years," Norman Lamont, the Chancellor, said last night.

Improved competitiveness, strong investment and improved training had provided a base from which companies could prosper in the 1990s, he said. Tight control of prices by individual firms was combining with low inflation in the national economy to enhance competitiveness.

"The government's doing its job and you're doing yours," he told 1,100 members of the Birmingham Chamber of Commerce. That was the first ten-year period since the second world war when Brit-



Lamont: "on course"

ain grew faster than Germany, France or Italy. The fundamental improvements in industrial relations and productivity were still there. "When the dust settles on this recession, they will be seen to be there."

Renewing the government's commitment to manufacturing, Mr Lamont said: "Exports are the way to recovery and growth." That, he said, was why manufacturing mattered.

The financial markets were unruffled by the rout the government suffered at the polls, in part reflecting the "very encouraging" picture of economic recovery emerging from the latest Treasury report and elsewhere.

The pound produced a surprisingly strong showing against the mark, climbing

almost a penny to 2.4896 at the official London close, almost a penny up on the previous finish, helped by economic gloom and industrial unrest in Germany. Sterling's trade-weighted index closed 0.2 higher at 80.9. Share and gilt prices were little changed in thin trading.

The pundits attributed the Conservatives' dramatic loss of favour on Thursday to the long, deep recession, which appears to have outweighed the mounting evidence of upturn in voters' minds.

The Treasury monthly report, which collates published data, showed most economic indicators pointing upwards. It listed rising house prices, subdued pressures on inflation, and falling unemployment among the favourable factors.

Clarks board rebuffed as vote keeps firm in family

BY JON ASHWORTH

SHAREHOLDERS of C&J Clark, the troubled West Country shoe group, have astonished the management by throwing out plans to sell the company to Berisford International.

The motion to approve a bid for Clarks was defeated by a slim majority at a passionate meeting of 700 shareholders at the Royal Bath & West showground, Shepton Mallet, Somerset, yesterday. Walter Dickson, chairman, is under pressure to resign in the wake of the decision which casts the privately run company into a new period of turmoil.

The decision will drive a new wedge between warring factions of the 1,000-strong Clark family, who have been arguing for almost a decade over the company's future.

The vote was 47 per cent in favour of the motion and 53 per cent against. Mr Dickson said he would be considering his position over the weekend. In a statement, he said: "The board will now work towards achieving agreement on how best to take advantage of the great strength of its brands and people in the best interests of our shareholders and employees."

Clarks said the board would now have to give "very careful and detailed consideration" to how the company should proceed. Clark family rebels, who have fought to keep the company private, were ecstatic after the decision was announced. Hugh Pym, an ITN reporter and family member, said the proceedings were "a vote against sale and a vote for the future of Clarks". Mr Pym, who has led a campaign called Share Holders Opposed to Enforced Sale (Shoes), said he hoped the company would be floated on the stock market

within five years. He said Mr Dickson's future as chairman was a matter for the board. The rebels have proposed a slimmer board structure with new non-executive directors and the formation of a shareholder council to allow greater democracy in the running of the business. Mr Pym said: "We hope all shareholders can now get together to make this work. That's the way to take the company forward — by working together."

Clarks attempted a stock market flotation in 1989 but was defeated by a narrow margin. Although 71 per cent of shareholders voted for the motion, the company needed more than 75 per cent to carry the bid. Berisford had offered 239p for each Clarks share, valuing the company at £184 million. The shares have been independently valued at 100p.

The shareholders cheered and applauded when the decision was announced. Earlier, Lance Clark, head of the rebel directors, told the meeting it was "absolutely idiotic" to sell the company at a time when all the books were full and the recession was easing. Clarks, he said, had the best brands and excellent management. "Please do not hand that over to somebody else."

The Clarks boardroom has been split by a family feud since the mid-1980s. Profits have fallen and the company is desperate to rebuild itself on the strength of brands like Clark shoes, K Shoes and Ravel. The feud has divided the 1,000 descendants of Cyrus and James Clark, who founded the firm in 1825.

Berisford, which hoped to use Clarks as a platform on which to relaunch itself, said it would continue to seek new opportunities.

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Happy Mr Smith, and Mr Jones.

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# How law is broken 'on a regular basis' in stock market dealings



Sir Andrew: stock replies

THE allegation by the chairman of Gartmore, one of the City's most influential institutional shareholders, that insider trading is commonplace provided a useful talking point in dealing rooms and over Friday lunches. But it is unlikely that Paul Myers was telling anyone in the Square anything they did not already know.

Insider dealing is rife. It is a criminal offence under the Company Securities (Insider Dealing) Act of 1985 and the law will be tightened when the criminal justice bill, now going through Parliament, receives royal assent. The law is broken on a regular basis, as any reader of these pages who can correlate profit warnings and other bad news with the suspicious share price movements that often precede them, will know.

The Stock Exchange, chaired by Sir Andrew Hugh Smith, has evolved a stock response if asked

about one of the more flagrant instances. "We always investigate suspicious share price movements," is the comforting mantra that emanates from the Stock Exchange tower on such occasions. The exchange will never identify investigations, however, or confirm that any given share price movement is the subject of enquiries. Frustratingly, too, for those who would like to see the City clean up its act, these deliberations seldom result in a prosecution. In the first ten years after insider dealing became an offence in 1980, the exchange referred 180 cases to the trade department, a pathetic number in that decade of hectic stock market activity. Only 26 prosecutions were brought and only ten convictions secured.

The authorities' strike rate since 1990 has been better, and the first prison sentence was imposed in 1991. But the statistics show that

there is barely an even chance that a case that gets as far as the courtroom will result in a prosecution, and fines are generally low.

Paul Nield, a partner at Gouldens, a firm of solicitors, and a leading securities lawyer, says the structure of present law makes prosecution next to impossible, and the proposed changes in the criminal justice bill will do little to make it any easier.

"There are a number of quite complicated legal elements in any insider dealing offence, both under the current legislation and under what is proposed," he says. "One of the key things you have to show is intention and purpose."

Consider a classic case of insider dealing.

A source within a company rings a friend in the City and tells him that the company will shortly announce that expected profits this year will actually be losses. The

friend immediately sells any shares he owns, to avoid a loss, or alternatively goes short in the stock in the expectation that the price will fall. The share price falls ahead of the announcement. The two split any gains, or the source is paid for preventing his City friend's loss.

The share sale is registered at the exchange. Once the profit warning comes out, the exchange's surveillance department contacts all those who dealt, including the friend, asking why. What is lacking in the way of evidence for a successful prosecution is any link between the two. Short of a taped telephone call or a written note, there is no way of proving the timely share sale was causally linked to the impending profit warning.

Before 1980, insider dealing was not an offence. Many a mansion in the leafy Surrey stockbroker belt was built out of the proceeds of an activity that was then accepted

practice. The Act was tightened in 1985, and an offence today has three main elements. There must be acquisition of inside information, whether requested or unsolicited; dealings must take place, whether or not they result in a profit; and the information must not be generally known—in other words, it must be price-sensitive.

The burden of proof is that which normally applies in criminal cases, that the case must be proven beyond all reasonable doubt. Where the critical evidence of a link between the insider at the company and the dealer is missing, this is an almost insurmountable obstacle.

One option that has been considered is a switch to the lower threshold of proof that applies in civil cases, that an offence has probably been committed. Another option might be called the "hand in a cookie jar" principle; all that is needed is the fact that one event, the

dealing, preceded another, the profit warning, and no evidence of intent need be considered. The principle operates to a limited extent in the US, where company directors are required to hand back profits made on share deals that are too close to significant events.

This would reverse the basic thrust of English criminal law. It might, however, mean a less moralistic but more workable approach to City crime, whereby insider dealing was not stigmatised but instead subject to automatic and heavy fines.

The forthcoming changes in the criminal justice bill widen the offence to the extent that some observers fear the normal City round of informal contacts between brokers' analysts and companies could be criminalised.

MARTIN WALLER  
Deputy City Editor

## Lautro imposes £75,000 fine on Prosperity Life

By LINDSAY COOK  
MONEY EDITOR

PROSPERITY Life, the life insurance company formerly known as Municipal Life, has paid £750,000 in compensation to investors and been fined £75,000 by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation because one of its tied agents persuaded more than 70 investors to cancel existing investments to buy its own.

The practice known in the industry as "churning" was outlawed in the Financial Services Act.

The life company has since severed its relationship with All Saints Investment and Pensions of Norwich, the agent concerned. Last July, Weekend Money expressed concern at the activities of All Saints, which had previously been tied to Reliance Mutual and had sold about 100 home income plans to elderly people

■ An investment watchdog charged Prosperity Life with failing to take appropriate action despite evidence that a tied agent was breaking the law

linked to investment bonds. The investors borrowed money against their homes, which was then invested in Reliance Mutual bonds.

When All Saints moved to Prosperity Life many of the investors were encouraged to purchase single premium investment bonds with that company and to cancel the existing investment bonds.

This was not in their interest, but it allowed the agent to earn a second lot of commission. In one case, a couple invested £55,000 with Reliance Mutual in 1989. By last summer, it had fallen in value to £30,000. Another investor suffered a loss of £9,000 when her

investment fell in value to £12,694.74.

Lautro said that when Prosperity Life received indications that churning was taking place, it had failed to take all reasonably practicable steps to monitor the investment business sold through its appointed representative.

Nigel Herrick, marketing director of Prosperity Life, said that the company had compensated the 77 people who had made claims. "As soon as we found out there was a problem, All Saints were terminated. We have also tightened up our monitoring techniques since then."

The Maidstone firm has ten tied agents left and said it was the first time it had been disciplined by its regulator. At Lautro, Colin Hawtin, head of policy, said: "This was a serious breach. Prosperity Life is dealing with it well. A lot of selling advice is based on trust. We have got to be absolutely satisfied that investors are not led to do the wrong thing. In some cases, investors were led to believe the withdrawals they made were income."

In fact, the regular payments reduced the lump sum they had invested. Churning has long been a concern of the regulators and consumer groups. Although outlawed, brokers are often accused of acting in their own interest in advising a change of investment rather than in the interest of their clients. Lautro imposed its first fines last year. Last week, Interlife was fined £60,000. This was the highest fine to date. Putting investors back in the position they would have been in if they had not been misled by an insurance salesman is part of the penalty. Lautro has sometimes required firms to do this without publicly censuring them.



New ground: Sir Peter Parker, head of CLM, offers investors limited liability

## Lloyd's sees £860m shortfall

By COLIN NARBROUGH

LLOYD'S of London, the conflict-torn insurance market, foresees a gap of up to £860 million between potential claims for negligence against it and the amount of cover available.

Only a week after Lloyd's published its business plan for overhauling the market, Sedgewick, a leading insurance broker, said it had formed the first company to offer investors limited liability access to the hitherto unlimited liability market.

Sir Peter Parker, the former chairman of British Rail, heads Corporate Lloyd's Membership (CLM), the new listed company.

Lloyd's expects global losses on operations in 1990, the

latest year under its accounting system, of "at least £2 billion". Results are due on June 22. Christopher Stockwell, chairman of the Lloyd's market board, said that 1990 might be the "worst year yet", beating the 1989 loss of £2.04 billion.

The panel set up to examine "errors and omissions" (£80 million) estimates that claims for the London market's "excess of loss" syndicates would be around £1.8 billion alone, roughly in line with City expectations. But the estimate for E&O cover is between £690 million and £940 million, far short of what had been expected. Peter Middleton, Lloyd's chief executive, said the panel

made proposals for settling such claims, including the establishment of a special subsidiary, Recovery Limited, to acquire members' rights to pursue their actions, and a system of credit to members to fund cash calls. The possibility of capping losses of participating members was also considered.

But Mr Middleton said the market's ruling council could not see how recovering money from one group of members on behalf of other members could be compatible with the obligation to be even-handed to all. Another difficulty would be the financial risk of offering credits to members whose claims might not be upheld in the courts.

## Irish SE voices concern over Greencore placing

THE Irish Stock Exchange has expressed "extreme concern" about events surrounding the placing, through Dublin's Davy Stockbrokers, of the state of the government of the Irish Republic in Greencore, the food group. It said an investigation would be pursued "as a matter of urgency".

In placing 25 million shares on behalf of the Irish government, Davy, it is alleged, breached Greencore's articles of association under which no one investor can hold more than 15 per cent. The Bank of Ireland, which owns Davy, already controlled 15 per cent through a subsidiary.

## Fairhaven floats OGC

FAIRHAVEN International, the oil, gas and petrochemicals construction group, is to offer 40 per cent of the shares of OGC International, its offshore services subsidiary. Bermuda-registered Fairhaven will retain the other 60 per cent of OGC, which is valued at £78 million at the offer price of 130p a share. Fairhaven will use the proceeds of the sale, about £30 million, to cut borrowings, strengthen its balance sheet and provide funds for future development.

## Pittencrieff warning

PITTENCRIEFF, the oil and gas producer bidding for Aberdeen Petroleum, gave a warning that its results for last year, due next week, will be worse than expected. However, the Edinburgh company said it would pay shareholders a final dividend of at least 4p per share. It has revised its £7.5 million all-share offer for Aberdeen, offering a cash alternative of 17p for each share, and said it owned or had acceptances representing 28.2 per cent of its target.

## Jarvis in rights issue

JARVIS, the building and civil engineering group, called on shareholders for £2.35 million to strengthen its financial position. The one-for-one rights issue of new shares at 14p was announced as the company reported a pre-tax loss for 1992 of £3.7 million, compared with profits of £238,000 in the previous year. Existing shares fell from 21p to 17½p. Jarvis is paying no dividend for the year. Last time shareholders received 0.575p.

## Hutchison raises cash

HUTCHISON Whampoa, the Hong Kong telecommunications and container giant, raised HK\$4.48 billion (£373 million) through a share placing and ruled out a later return for more cash. However, analysts had anticipated a HK\$10 billion cash call and expect it will need another placement next year to finance expansion in China. The fund-raising saw Cheung Kong (Holdings), the property firm, place 151.7 million Hutchison shares to institutions at HK\$18.30.

## Mulcahy pay up a third

SIR Geoffrey Mulcahy, chairman of Kingfisher, the Woolworths, B&Q and Comet group, had his salary boosted by a third last year, according to the company's annual report. His basic pay jumped from £450,000 to £600,000, though his bonus—based on the performance of the group—fell to £167,000 from £264,000. After other minor benefits were taken into account, Sir Geoffrey's total remuneration increased 7.5 per cent from £719,000 to £773,000.

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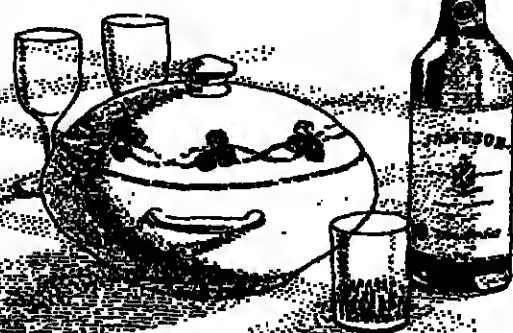
### THE SUNDAY TIMES

65 over 65

Sir Ian Morrow, the 80-year-old chairman of MAI, says: "Age shouldn't be considered an absolute barrier any more than youth should be considered an absolute virtue. A lot of talent is being wasted..."

A survey of the wise heads at the top—*Business, The Sunday Times tomorrow*

## THE SUNDAY TIMES Jameson Whiskey Event Irish night out



The Times and Jameson Whiskey are offering readers the opportunity to taste and compare Irish whiskeys on May 17 and June 28. The tasting will be followed by a four course dinner with coffee and wine and a Jameson for just £35 a head at Mulligans Restaurant, Cork Street in Mayfair. Mulligans is the only Irish restaurant in Mayfair. John Ryan of Irish Distillers will lead the tutored tasting at 7.30pm and an Irish fiddler will play the occasional jig.

### THE MENU

Warm sweetbreads with asparagus and truffle

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Breast of duck, tartlet of duck livers and wild mushrooms or Grilled seabass, braised fennel, olives and rosemary or Braised beef, onions with Irish oysters and baby potatoes

Biscuit layered with raspberries and vanilla cream, with lemon sorbet.

Bewleys coffee/Barry tea and Jameson

The dinner is limited to 50 guests each date. To reserve your place send your cheque for £35 per person payable to Raitt Orr & Associates, with your address, telephone number and main course choice to Jane Brown, Raitt Orr & Associates, 34 Buckingham Palace Rd, London SW1W 0RE. Tel: 071-828 5961.

JAMESON  
IRISH WHISKY

## Costain seeks housing arm buyer

By GEORGE SIVELL, CITY EDITOR

COSTAIN, the debt-laden construction group, said that it is discussing the sale of its British housebuilding division with a number of potential buyers.

Although it declined to comment on the buyers, the group's shares rose 1p to 37p. It said recently it had debts of £152.5 million, or 96 per cent of shareholders' funds, even after the sale of its Australian operations to Hanson for

\$200 million and the assumption of £53 million of debt. Debts are believed to have risen subsequently. Peter Costain, the chief executive, has said that the group would trade with the support of its banks.

Costain's residential and commercial property businesses last year reported an operating loss of £7.1 million against a £14.6 million deficit in 1991. The value of the

group's housing land was written down by a further £49.5 million following sharp falls in house prices.

Costain as a whole incurred an attributable £213 million loss last year, including an £8 million provision against the Channel tunnel project. Analysts believe that the Costain housing business, with an estimated 2,000 sites, could fetch around £20 million.

## U-turn on pensions possible

By LIZ DOLAN

THE government appears to be considering a U-turn on proposals for the indexation of payments from company pensions. Ann Widdecombe, under-secretary of state for social security, said that her department was now prepared to listen to further representations from employers on this subject and implied that this could lead to the scaling down of indexation requirements.

Legislation passed in 1990 proposed that pensions should be linked to the annual rate of inflation to an upper limit of 5 per cent. But the Confederation of British Industry this week made it clear that employers were unhappy with the proposal.

Speaking at the annual

conference of the National Association of Pension Funds, Miss Widdecombe said she could not rule out the possibility of a rethink. "We are looking at the figures and listening to the expressions of concern," she said.

Miss Widdecombe also hinted at further delays in the vexed question of equalisation of retirement ages. She said that the government was still unable to make a decision on equalisation, despite a recommendation last week by the advocate-general of the European Court that equal treatment between men and women in occupational pension schemes should apply only to pensions earned by service since May 17, 1990. Miss Widdecombe said: "All

proposed changes to pension law will involve major legislation. The question is how best to fit them all into the legislative timetable. Do we pass one mega-bill, or several? If so, what goes into which bill? We've got to get it right."

Ron Amy, the NAPF chairman, criticised the government for dragging its feet over equalisation of retirement ages, now thought likely to be fixed at 65. He also expressed concern at falls in state pension provision. He predicted that state pensions would fall from 17 per cent of average earnings to single figures within a few years. One had to question whether the government had any long-term aim to stay with state-regulated pensions at all, Mr Amy said.

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BUSINESS PROFILE: Peter Wood

# Driven man who worked a car insurance miracle

Now the founder of Direct Line plans an assault on the travel business, says Patricia Tehan

**W**hat is the secret of Peter Wood's success? Ask him and he is evasive. "There is no genius in this, you just need a PhD in common sense," he says.

Thanks to his gift of common sense, Mr Wood heads Britain's fastest-growing insurance company, Royal Bank of Scotland's Direct Line. After only eight years in the business, his telephone-based operation is poised to take the top slot from Norwich Union, the country's biggest motor insurer, later this year.

Profits from Direct Line contributed £15 million to the Royal Bank's £91.6 million interim figure, unveiled this week. George Mathewson, the bank's chief executive, expects it to contribute substantially more than 20 per cent of profits in future.

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He lives a quiet life that revolves around work, his family and tennis. He lives in a modest house, south of London, and drives a BMW.

As a director of a publicly quoted company, Mr Wood's pay is open to public scrutiny and the inevitable tabloid criticism of his wealth that goes with it.

Frequent, ill-informed public discussion of his pay has made him understandably sensitive about the subject, though if he had kept his 25 per cent stake in the company, instead of selling it to the Royal Bank in 1988, he would be worth far more.

Mr Wood says his experience of running the management services subsidiary of Alexander Howden, the insurance broker, left him well qualified to start his own motor insurance company.

He used to run the operations side of Howden's business, including computers, personnel and general administration. Here he learnt what not to do in running an insurance company, he says.

When the company was taken over by Alexander & Alexander, the American broker, a \$55 million fraud was uncovered. After the litigation started, Mr Wood says, "there was not too much happening and I was bored stiff".

He and Roy Havilland, the co-founder of Direct Line, began to ponder ideas about setting up their own business. "I had a background in computers. I had seen how people run businesses. I wanted to run a business myself, but it had to be low ticket value and using computers."

With the germ of an idea, Mr Wood and Mr Havilland left Howden, taking 30 staff with them. At that stage, he says, his colleagues were not sure what he planned to do. They thought it might be a



Strength of will: Wood uses his talent for argument in dealing with fellow directors; there is no such thing as a no, he says, only a deferred yes

computer bureau. Instead, he approached banks and venture capitalists with plans to shake up Britain's motor insurance market. Mr Wood flew to Scotland for a meeting with the Royal Bank in May 1984, taking his "black book" business plan with him. He came away convinced that the bank would never be prepared to provide the necessary backing. "I did not expect a clearing bank to put money into motor insurance, where everybody was losing money."

He was wrong. "For some reason I still do not understand, they said yes." The bank's directors have been congratulating themselves ever since. They gave Mr Wood a year to set the com-

pany up, to obtain authorisation from the trade department to sell insurance, to find suitable non-executive directors, and to hire and train staff. "We were running round like headless chickens trying to get it ready," he says.

The company was launched on April 2, 1985, with 60 staff. "We felt April 1 would be pushing our luck," Mr Wood says. They threw a party in their new offices to celebrate. The company bought the building this year — it now represents less than 3 per cent of its total office space.

On one day last July, its turnover equalled that of its first year. Direct Line is now one of the largest employers in Croydon, Surrey. It has offices

in Glasgow, Manchester and Birmingham and employs 1,450 staff.

"Any minute now", it will be the country's second biggest motor insurer and expects to oust Norwich Union from the leading position by the autumn, when it will have 1.3 million policyholders. The company is already planning its tenth anniversary party.

Although Mr Wood devised the Direct Line computer system which rates insurance risk — and avoids high-risk customers — he has never sold a policy. "I do not think I would last a day on the phone," he says. He is modest about his ability to dream up the new schemes that keep the Royal Bank happy. "I am unencum-

bered by too many brains, that slows people down because they think too much," he says. He gets new ideas every time he receives bad service, he says. He cannot understand why so many hotels, airlines, retailers and other service providers treat their customers and suppliers so badly.

When Mr Wood was at school, a teacher told him he "would make a good backbench lawyer, because I used to argue so much".

He often puts this talent to use in his dealings with fellow directors. When Charles Winter, the Royal Bank's former chief executive, would slam the telephone down in the middle of an argument over Mr Wood's plans for Direct Line, "I would ring him right back and say, was that a yes or a no?"

There is no such thing as a no, he says, only a deferred yes.

He insists that wealth has not changed him, and is determined that his five daughters will not be spoiled. "I

could lavish money on them, but I want to let them have the enjoyment of being successful in their own right. So we make sure that we live a very ordinary life. We have nice holidays, but nobody who knows them and me would think that I was the highest-paid man in the country."

He says he is not a pushy father and his only ambition for his daughters is for them to be happy. "Not to smoke or take drugs. To be friends and to talk to me. I do not push them to do well. They push themselves, but that is more to do with peer group pressure."

Mr Wood's head is buzzing with new ideas, and he is a man with enough self-belief and determination to put them into action.

Direct Line is pushing deeper into the household insurance market. "We are already in the top ten," he says. "We want to be in the top five."

September will see the launch of personal loans and he says Direct Line will follow on with other products using the same telephone sales system. Life assurance firms should start to worry now. Direct Line is looking into life protection policies and "we do, in the longer-term, see the life industry as a major market".

Unsurprisingly, Mr Wood receives many offers from headhunters, though not as many now as he used to, he says. He plans to stay with the Royal Bank as long as Mr Mathewson is chief executive. Although they are not alike, the two work well together.

His contract has a poison pill if the bank is taken over. His permission is also required for any flotation of Direct Line, though Mr Mathewson said this week that a float "is not currently part of our plans".

Looking ahead, Mr Wood longs to go into the travel business, which, he says, has the same cost structure and overheads as motor insurance once had.

He has raised the idea with Mr Mathewson, who "thought I was crazy at first", but, he says, beginning to come round. The operation would start as a minnow, Mr Wood points out. "They should not worry for several years."

## Golden parachutes may oust golden handshakes as managers' farewell

**A**fter a week in which several former business high-flyers have been revealed as having walked away with severance payments that make retirement an attractive prospect, it might seem curious to claim that the lavish golden handshake could be edging towards extinction.

But Ronnie Fox, a partner in Fox Williams and one of the Square Mile's handful of solicitors specialising in terms of employment, is convinced that in the changing business climate, more emphasis will be placed on pre-negotiation of severance terms, even before a new executive is through the door.

This will be coupled with a move towards higher salaries but shorter contractual terms, he says, partly prompted by the publicity that has been given to some of the more lavish pay-offs of recent years.

All this suggests an end to recent practice, whereby a three-year rolling contract is paid off in full, giving the ousted executive, in one case, more than four years' pay for barely one year's work. "This is moving towards the Ameri-

can model," Mr Fox says. "The US experience is, you hire and you fire, and while somebody is there you pay them well."

Hand-in-hand with this goes a concentration on "golden parachutes", those pre-nuptial agreements that lay down, before an executive joins, what the compensation will be should things go awry.

But increasing, by the executive can expect to be offered significant incentives to join in the first place, a "success fee" along lines common in America, where the new head of IBM, for example, is on a \$45 million package to pull the computer giant round.

"There's a desperate need for companies to find people who can generate profits, preserve jobs and build a business," Mr Fox says. "At the top of British industry, companies are prepared to pay relatively large amounts."

He believes a "sea change"

is taking place and that many executives are losing jobs not because of poor performance but because market requirements have changed.

The rash of executive pay-offs in recent years, Mr Fox believes, reflects the switch in corporate culture that has seen the entrepreneur give way to the cautious accountant who can steer the business through the recession, cutting back hard on staff where necessary. At the same time, given that the politics of envy remain a feature of British life and colour how companies are viewed from the outside, boards are keen not to be seen to reward their executives too well. Recent weeks have seen several well-known companies go to some lengths to deny their shareholders the right to view directors' contracts of employment.

Mr Fox says that of the situations where he or other third parties are brought into negotiations on severance terms, only about one in 20 has to be settled in the courts. "In this country, it's very, very expensive to enforce your legal rights," he says. "I think we will see people trying harder and harder to avoid the courts and industrial tribunals at senior levels."

Some legal observers believe tribunals have ruled themselves out because they have become infested with the very lawyers many were set up to keep out. Tribunals are certainly unsuitable as the court of last judgment for ousted senior executives, because of the strict limits on the amounts they can recommend in settlement.

As a lawyer specialising in terms of employment termination — he wrote the standard text on the subject, now in its third edition — Mr Fox clearly has a vested interest in encouraging both company and ousted executive to seek legal advice.

But he adds: "The emotions that occur when they come together and when they part are analogous to those when people divorce. It's one reason why both sides prefer to have the matter dealt with by third parties, by solicitors."

Negotiations are not always over money alone. Companies may be keen to prevent departing employees from setting up on their own or defecting to the opposition, and employees may have their own agendas.

"I used to think the company wanted to pay as little as possible and the individual wanted to get as much as possible," Mr Fox says. "But they may be acting with different motives."

"The senior executive may want a reference, a graceful retirement, or simply to be released from a covenant entered into. One executive, more than anything else, wanted a trip around the world with his wife to say goodbye to the colleagues he had worked with for 15 years. That was more important to him than getting the last pound."

MARTIN WALLER  
Deputy City Editor



Emergency exits: Ronnie Fox thinks money is not always the most important thing

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## Dow mixed in early trading

ship. However, Philip Morris rose after an announcement that RJR Nabisco was calling promotion of its Monarch brand, signalling an easing of the cigarette price war. (Re-

	May 7 midday	May 6 close		May 7
Elec	58 1/2	58 1/2	Oryx Energy Co	22 1/2
rd Corp	32 3/4	31 1/2	Gwens Corning	39 1/2
	59 1/2	59 1/2	PNC Financial	31 3/4
Corp	34 1/4	34 1/4	PPG Industries	77 1/2
Corp	28 1/2	28 1/2	Paccor Inc	58 1/2
	64 1/2	66 1/2	PacificCorp	18 1/2
P	44 1/2	44 1/2	Pac Enterprises	23 1/2
Express	38 1/2	38 1/2	Pac Gas & Elect	42 1/2
Mage	48 1/2	49	Pac Televis	25 1/2
Corp	76 1/2	78 1/2	Pall Corp	10 1/2
	38 1/2	38 1/2	Panhandle East	21 1/2

Finance	94%	54%	Parsons	51%
Construction	11%	11%	Parke Hannafin	30%
IT	30%	31	Pennycy (DC)	43%
Exp	36%	36%	Pennwalt	63%
Motor	55%	55%	Pepco	37%
P	36	35%	Pfizer	66%
	52%	32%	Phelps Dodge	42%
Del	33%	32%	Phidai Elec	29%
Enma	35%	35%	Phillips Morris	51%
amics	90	95%	Phillips Pet	29%

Life	94%	93%	Miner Bowes	41%
Life	67	67%	Polaroid	41%
Life	40	40%	Pride Co	28
Insurance	116%	118	Primetech	44%
Real	63%	63%	Procter & Gamble	46%
Real Estate	36	36%	Pub Serv E & G	34%
Real Estate	64%	64%	Qualitest Corp	66%
Real Estate	52%	52%	Ralston Purina	49%
Real Estate	18%	18%	Raychem Corp	42%
Real Estate	45%	45%	Raytheon	37%
Real Estate	37%	37%	Reebok Inc	37%
Real Estate	39%	39%	Reynolds Metals	43%
Real Estate	39%	39%	Roadway Sys	59%

Fin	16%	18%	Robinson Inc	32%
Gen	38%	39%	Robt & Hask	54%
Ind	38%	37%	Royal Dutch	89%
	73%	74	Rubberman	31%
Food	53%	53%	Salem Corp	57%
Packard	77%	77%	St Paul's Cos	81%
Metals	44%	45	Sunbeam Inc	36%
Repor	43%	43%	Sunco W & S Pac	15%
the Mig	16%	16%	Sun Lee Corp	25%
Il	35	35%	Socorp	48%
Ind Int	69%	68%	Schering Plough	66%
Inds	67%	67%	Schlumberger	64%
	10	9%	Scott Paper	35%
	82%	82%	Seawater	26%

Tool	70%	69%	Sears Roebuck	53%
	22%	22%	Shell Trains	54
Band	33	32%	Sherwin Wilms	31%
Steel	25%	25%	Skylark Corp	19%
Sp	102%	101%	Snap-On Tools	35%
	48	48%	Southern Co	42
& Fr	115%	114%	Spurwestern Bell	75%
or	65%	65	Sprint Corp	31%
Over Va	20%	20%	Stanley Works	46
Thru	43%	43%	Sum. Co.	24%

See	29%	29%	Supersave	24%
Clark	51%	51%	Suzarum	45%
Chlor	49%	49%	Synex Corp	39%
Chlor	58%	58%	Synco Corp	25%
Chlor	51%	51%	T&W Inc	61%
Chlor	22%	22%	Tandem Comp	11%
Chlor	88%	87%	Tandy Corp	30%
Chlor	79%	70%	Telecom Corp	2%
Chlor	60%	60%	Teletype	18%
Chlor	35%	25%	Temple Inland	44%
Chlor	64%	64%	Tenneco	48%
Chlor	62%	61%	Teneco	64%
			Teneco Int	61%

man	48%	48%	Texas Utilities	46%
	24%	24%	Tucson	48%
McLean	01	91%	Time Warner	33%
Corp	32%	22%	Times-Mirror	31%
St	74%	73%	Times	31%
St	41	13%	Torchmark	53%
Industrial	40	40	Toys R Us	37%
	49%	48%	Transamerica	48%
id D	63%	64%	Travelers Corp	22%
Phill	59%	59%	Tribune	54%
Corp	44%	45	Tyco Labs	42%
Corp	67%	67%	UAL Corp	134%
Corp	32%	54%	UST Inc	30%

Corp	45%	46	USX Marathon	10%
Corp	37%	37%	Uniflower NV	12%
Unch	70%	30%	Union Camp	44%
& Mine	14	144	Union Carbide	19%
Corp	70%	70%	Union Pacific	62%
	52%	53	Unisys Corp	12
Corp	67%	67%	USACorp Group	21%
Inc	76%	76%	USPSG Corp	17%
	8%	8%	US Life	37%
	14%	14%	US West	41%
nce Ind	26%	26%	United Tech	51%
Corp	2%	2%	Unocal Corp	31%
Inc	51%	51%	Unolon	30%

A	28%	28%	VF Corp	48%
Ming	48%	49%	Wal-Mart Stores	26%
Bank	22%	22%	Wm.-Lambert	72%
	69%	69%	Waste Mgmt Inc	32
Arches	4	4	Wells Fargo	100%
	31%	31%	Westinghouse Pl	15%
Chum	61%	61	Weyerhaeuser	43%
Per	45%	45%	Whitpool	54
Corp	50%	50%	Whitman	13%
Per	83%	83%	Wish Edw	54%
Per	28%	32%	Woolworth	29%
ons	24%	24%	Wrigley (Wm) Jr	23
	39%	38%	Xerox	74%

	Bld	Other	Wkly ofn
STANDARD LIFE ASSURANCE CO 3 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 2XZ 011 225 2525			

Cash	293.70	269.30	+ 0.10
Equity	961.60	907.00	+11.40
Europeen	137.70	145.00	+ 0.10
Rex East	144.70	152.40	+ 0.70
Fixed Interest	362.00	381.10	+ 1.10
Index Linked	193.60	203.80	+ 0.10
International	524.10	551.70	+ 0.50
Managed	604.30	636.20	+ 5.20
With American	132.30	139.30	+ 0.30
Property	306.90	322.00	...
Pensions			
Cash	391.70	412.40	+ 0.40

Equity	121.51	127.73	+ 6.22
European	161.30	169.80	+ 8.50
Far East	112.10	118.00	+ 5.90
Fixed Income	480.80	506.20	+ 25.40
Index Linked	267.30	281.90	+ 14.60
International	721.60	759.00	+ 37.40
Mixed	828.40	872.00	+ 43.60
With American	163.40	172.00	+ 8.60
Property	386.50	406.90	+ 20.40
Stock Exchange	196.50	196.80	+ 0.30

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Managed Fund	560.70	590.30	...
Equity Fund	749.30	789.30	- 4.20
Fixed Interest Fd	384.00	404.30	...
Index-Linked Fd	286.00	301.10	- 0.26
Property Fund	410.50	432.20	- 0.60
International Fd	537.30	566.20	+ 5.20
N American Fd	200.10	210.70	+ 3.70
Risk Ret Fund	183.50	193.20	- 1.10
Deposit Fund	270.60	294.40	+ 0.30
International Bd	471.58	...	+ 1.30
Worldwide Bond	151.30	159.70	+ 0.90
Worldwide Finc	78.60	82.80	+ 0.10
Worldwide Trst	70.46	88.46	0.00

European	93.40	98.90	+ 0.10
European	133.10	140.20	+ 0.60
Phoenix Assurance	553.00	582.20	+ 1.20
Phoenix Assurance	430.00	459.70	...
Property Fund	1468.80	...	+ 0.60
-do- Acc	1440.00	...	+ 0.40
Agricultural Fd	3755.40	...	+ 0.60
-do- Acc	1725.80	...	0.60
Abbey Nat Fd	3777.20	...	+ 0.30
Abbey Nat Acc	1400.70	...	+ 0.30
Investment Fd	6296.30	...	...
Investment (A)	1285.00	...	...

Equity	11082.5	...	- 5.70
Equity Acc	11040.1	...	- 5.40
Money Fund	1442.40	...	- 0.30
-do- Acc	1424.40	...	+ 0.30
Actuarial Fd	1507.50	...	- 0.30
GR-Edged Fd	1358.10	...	...
-do- Acc	1378.10	...	...
Retire Annuity	1984.30	...	+ 7.70
Unpaid Annuity	1289.00	...	...
Wdg Soc Life	1214.60	...	+ 0.30

**SUN LIFE OF CANADA**

Account	Balance	Debit	Credit
Drilling: 0256 1414			
Growth Account	1243.6		0.10
Managed Acc	2731.00		5.10
Equality Account	11028.8		12.70
Misc Fund Acc	339.10	357.60	1.50
Equity Fund Acc	453.70	477.00	5.90
Prop Fund Acc	221.90	233.60	0.20
Fixed Int Pd Acc	277.30	261.50	3.40
Money Fund Acc	2160.6	221.70	6.30
Unid-Lnk Svc Acc	195.30	205.50	1.20
Pers Perss Acc	11612.4		5.50
Perss Mngl Acc	749.80	789.20	2.70
Perss Guarantee	270.40	739.00	

Pers Equity	286.10	301.30	+ 0.60
Pers Property	239.60	241.70	+ 0.60
Pers Fixed Int	249.70	252.30	+ 2.60
Pers Ind	309.30	322.30	+ 4.50
Pers Money	221.30	213.00	- 0.30
Pers Ind-Ltd	162.70	162.30	- 1.80

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Managed Acc	767.50	807.80	- 1.70
Property Acc	281.50	296.00	+ 3.20
Equity Acc	1251.7	1317.6	-11.70
Fixed Int Acc	355.30	324.90	

Index-Linked Acc	191.00	251.10	-1.30
Cash Acc	292.60	309.10	-0.20
Amer Equity Acc	321.10	318.00	-0.26
Japan Acc	294.60	330.20	+5.00
Pacific Acc	224.60	238.10	+6.90
Pac Eastern Acc	649.10	704.00	+0.90
International Acc	483.80	595.30	+11.30
Distribution Fund	271.30	285.60	+8.30
European	152.00	160.10	+2.00
<b>TSB LIFE LTD</b>			
Christian Placc. Andover			
0264 345678			
Managed Fund	248.50	261.00	-0.90

Property Fund	180.20	189.70	...
Fixed Interest Fd	205.30	216.10	+ 0.60
Money Fund	199.80	199.80	= 0.20
Equity Fund	322.60	334.60	= 0.80

TARGET LIFE			
The Exchange, 64 High Street, Aylesbury.			
Bonds. 0245 394800			
Deposit	238.10	250.70	+ 0.10
Financial Ser I	38.40	41.30	+ 0.30
Fixed Interest	312.00	328.90	+ 0.30
Gold	70.30	74.10	= 1.50
Managed	531.30	559.80	+ 1.10
Mixed Growth			

Mgmt Opp	168.80	175.60	- 6.80	...
Property	173.30	182.30	- 9.00	...
Residential Prop	253.30	264.70	- 11.40	...
TSB Americas	98.90	95.70	...	...
TSB Brit Govt	179.40	188.00	+ 2.60	...
TSB European	704.20	741.30	- 13.10	...
TSB Income	228.10	247.30	+ 4.10	...
TSB Intl	343.70	361.50	- 1.70	...
TSB Intl Inc	362.30	381.40	- 1.90	...
TSB Pacific	267.60	281.70	- 4.30	...
TSB Pacific	323.00	340.00	- 1.60	...
TSB Prem Inc	334.70	345.20	+ 0.40	...

100



- LOOK EAST 26
- WELCOME WINDFALL 26
- INFORMATION OVERLOAD 27
- LETTERS 28

# WEEKEND MONEY

THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 8 1993

Edited by Lindsay Cook

## Surveys lack value for money

COMMENT

LINDSAY COOK  
WEEKEND MONEY EDITOR



Mortgage valuations have always been a bone of contention for homebuyers. For a start, they are often lower than borrowers want, which means that they cannot borrow as much as they would like to. Yet the borrower has to pay for the information that will limit their loan. And may have to pay again and again for different lenders until a mortgage is arranged.

Borrowers have long felt that the system was open to abuse and they have more recently been joined by some valuers and surveyors, who have been upset by cosy arrangements that give all the work to a select few. As a result, those firms also pick up commissions for full surveys and house buyers' reports for people wanting more detail, but not wanting to pay out in full twice over.

The system does not work for the borrower and needs a radical overhaul. The lenders have had to be forced every inch of the way to make minor concessions with these valuations. Initially, lenders refused to let borrowers know the price put on the

property they were going to buy. The only hint they got that the value was low was if the lender refused to give them a mortgage. But there was no hint to the borrower if the valuer thought there were problems with the property if they were only borrowing a fraction of the price. It did not matter to the lender that there was dry rot or propped-up joists if they were lending just £50,000 on a £250,000 property.

Eventually, lenders relented and started giving borrowers a quick glimpse of the reports and then they presto, their own copy. However, because the valuation was carried out for the lender, people who went ahead and bought on the strength of it, and later found the valuer had missed vital information on a house that barely stood up once the carpets and wall paper were removed, had no rights to sue for negligence.

A series of expensive and lengthy

cases all the way to the House of Lords have given borrowers using such valuations alone some limited rights to sue the valuers.

Last year, the building society ombudsman was given the go-ahead by the courts to investigate complaints about in-house valuers for existing building society borrowers. The societies had opposed even this tiny improvement. Lots of complaints about faulty valuations still cannot be dealt with because the customer is moving from one lender to another.

If lenders would accept a full structural survey by a professional

valuer as evidence that a property is good for the loan, then more people might opt for the detailed report. Now they feel they have to pay twice over, and cannot choose the firm they deal with. If the lender does not have the firm they want on its panel the borrower has to pay for a valuation and then for a survey elsewhere.

### Wand waving

The secret is out. Building societies can easily offer their borrowers cheaper buildings insurance outside the block policies

they negotiate with insurers for their customers. But only borrowers persistent enough to protest about huge premium rises will be told this, it seems.

Societies are perfectly happy to keep most people in the dark, as one Leeds Permanent borrower discovered. On being told her new buildings insurance premium with the Leeds Permanent was £516, £250 more than the previous year, she told the building society that the increase was "extortionate and unreasonable" and that she and her husband would arrange their own insurance.

She had said the magic words. The Leeds Permanent replied that it could arrange a cheaper policy with a premium of £304.50 with another insurer, as long as the couple paid a £25 administration fee. Premiums would be debited monthly with the mortgage as with the other, more

expensive policy. The Leeds Permanent's argument for charging more is that it has agreed "service standards" with the main insurers with which it negotiates block policies. However good these standards are, they cannot possibly be worth paying an extra £200 a year for.

What the Leeds Permanent (and other societies) are not saying is that they also earn generous commissions from large insurers for their sterling work in selling expensive policies to a captive audience. It is for this reason that they do not want to enlighten the many borrowers who still mistakenly believe that they have to take out buildings insurance with the building society.

The Leeds Permanent itself has said insurance is a competitive market. So it is and borrowers should start to make it work for them, rather than meekly paying up every year. They could even try approaching the insurer presently underwriting their insurance directly rather than through the building society. They may get a pleasant surprise.

## Share shop campaign to keep BT3 stags at bay

Sara McConnell  
says government  
plans to encourage  
BT3 buyers not to  
sell at once may  
be unnecessary

THE first details of the government's most ambitious privatisation campaign to date emerged this week, as its advisers announced 150 brokers, banks and building societies had been chosen to act as share shops for the sale of another tranche of BT.

The expansion of the share shop scheme from just eight firms in the previous BT sale marks another step forward in the government's campaign for "wider and deeper" share ownership. This has so far met only limited success. But between the end of May, when the share shops are allowed to start marketing, and mid July, when the shares go on sale, potential investors must endure a heavy campaign to persuade them to buy BT shares. If they sign up with a share shop, they will be encouraged not to stagger their allocation of BT shares (selling them at once to gain a high profit) but keep them and buy more and different shares, developing a relationship with their share shop.

But many investors appear not to need any encouragement from the government to put their money into equities. There is already a steady stream of private investors chancing the equity markets again and this could swell to a flood this summer, private client brokers believe.

Saving in the building society is less attractive than it has been since the late 1980s as interest rates look set to remain low. This, combined with signs of a pick up in the economy which could prove sustainable, have meant a busy first quarter of the year for brokers. They expect this momentum to continue.

Justin Urquhart Stewart, marketing director at Barclays Stockbrokers, said: "The hobbyists are back in the market and trading - the people who have a few stocks and who enjoy it as long as they have some security."

Richard Twydel, marketing director of Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, said: "There has been a considerable shift in attitude by people who have been cautious about equities. People are starting to ask whether cash is really the best thing to be in."

Much of the money coming in from Henderson Crosthwaite clients is from their "savings pot" in the building society, said Mr Twydel, adding that many building society savers did not realise what a poor return they were getting. For the first time in years, many savers are getting a negative return of 2-3 per cent gross, depending on their balance. By contrast yields on utilities shares like Seaboard and North West Water are 4.5 per cent gross and 5.1 per cent gross.

Waters Lunniss, the Norwich broker owned by the Norwich and Peterborough building society, has also noticed a significant change since last September. Richard Lerner, Waters Lunniss' managing director, said: "People are genuinely investing in the stock market, not punting. They are going for dividend income offered by blue chip



stocks with good yields." Clients at Fidelity Brokerage Services, the execution-only broker, have shown "sustained interest" even after the beginning of a new financial year, when activity generally falls away. Amanda Davies, head of dealing, said people were

investors in previous issues have had to pay for their shares in three instalments. Those who held on to their shares got their first dividends as if they had paid fully for their stock, although they had yet to pay all their instalments.

If similar arrangements are in place this time, investors are

### The chosen few face a multitude

THE 150 firms chosen to act as share shops this week will be able to start marketing their services using a special share shop symbol and BT3 offer logo when the marketing campaign begins on May 24. Until then, the shops are not allowed to let slip any hint of their marketing plans. They will be free to set what prices they like for dealing.

Prospective investors who register with a share shop after May 24 will receive an application form from that share shop, with a copy of the prospectus. When the completed forms are returned, share shops will apply on their registrants' behalf, and submit bulk applications with a single cheque. Cheques will be made out to the share shop rather than BT. This is why firms applying to become share shops have to be authorised to handle clients' money. They have already been vetted by Warburgs and 30 of the 180 applicants were refused on these grounds.

Firms acting as share shops will get a selling commission of 1.1 per cent on the first £8,000 worth of shares allocated at the fully-paid price and 0.5 per cent on the next £22,000 worth of shares allocated. The minimum commission will be £12.50 per successful underlying application.

making more calculated decisions, in some cases going for shares where there was the possibility of a quick gain and taking profits.

Ms Davies believes the next BT sale has had a big effect on investors, with many people asking when they will get more details. Fidelity Brokerage is one of the 150 chosen share shops but will offer the service only to its clients.

No details have yet been given about the size of the BT issue or its structure. But

likely to pay the first instalment in July when they buy the shares, the second next March and the third next autumn. But before they have their second call in March, they will have already earned dividends in September and February.

The appetite of private investors for less obvious new issues is growing. Registrations for the £250 million sale of Northern Ireland Electricity (NIE), in June, are still being accepted. Although most of

the interest has come from Northern Ireland, there has been some on the mainland, said Mr Urquhart Stewart. Investors who are not NIE customers can apply by registering with the NIE share information office or via an approved broker. Those registered can choose one of four share shops at Allied Irish Banks, First Trust Bank, Northern Bank or Ulster Bank.

Barclays handles deals for Northern Bank and will be dealing in NIE shares through its share shop service. It says it is the only one of the mainland UK share shops nominated in 1991 for BT2 to have kept its share shop operation going. It deals in 50 popular stocks charging a minimum £15 for deals of up to £1,400.

Private investors are also starting to demand more opportunity to participate in new issues as the economy picks up and companies dare to risk a flotation. Proshare, the organisation funded by industry and the government to promote share ownership, said last week it had set up a new issue line for investors seeking information on new issues. It has information lines on OGC International, WMS, RJB Mining, NIE, Biocare, Fine Decor and Anagan. Calls cost 35p a minute (cheap rate) and 48p a minute (peak time).

Meanwhile, the New Issue Register was set up this week to bring together private investors who want to participate in new issues and merchant banks and brokers deciding who can participate. The company says since 1991 the FT all-share index has risen by 16 per cent, new issues open to all investors by 20 per cent and new issues placed with institutions by 62 per cent. Subscribers will pay £75 a year, with the first 8,000 members only billed at their first investment.

## Small investors show up the professionals with timely buys

PRIVATE investors are not only moving into shares in larger numbers but they are also growing more sophisticated and in some cases more speculative in their share-buying, according to ShareLink, the largest execution-only retail broker with more than 300,000 private clients.

When it was revealed that medical trials of Retrovir, the Wellcome drug, had not impressed doctors, the share price fell dramatically. Private investors took it as an opportunity to buy when the price slumped to £6.58 and this week it was up almost £1.

Small investors are also sometimes ahead of the market. Mr Bartram said: "Asda was the most popular share in 1992. Small investors in fairly solid numbers bought Asda well ahead of the market perceiving it was a recovery stock. Lots of recovery stocks are being bought. Some come good. Others don't."

In March the third most popular buy was Amstrad shares, the company that tried to go private last year when its founder, Alan Sugar, offered 30p for each share. Investors were prompted in following the launch of a revolutionary personal organiser only a few months after the company

said there were no miracle launches planned to bale the company out of trouble. Spring Ram Corporation, which had a setback in late March when its finance director resigned after accounting irregularities, has since bounced back. The shares fell to 59p but moved back to 82p this week. In March the bathrooms and kitchens firm was at number six in the ShareLink popularity stakes.

Neither it nor Amstrad had appeared in the top 100 during the previous month. David Jones, chief executive of ShareLink, said: "The turnaround in preferences clearly indicates more selective buying. But buying it is. The buyers are still in the ascendancy. During the month BT moved up from six to two and British Gas and Abbey National re-entered the top ten."

The companies falling out of favour included Queens Moat Houses, which was sold by small investors before the shares were suspended because of debt problems in April. Some analysts were still promoting it as stock to buy. Brent Walker, Ratners, Forte and British Aerospace were all big sellers.

Abbey National has extended its own share-dealing services to all shares quoted on the London Stock Exchange. It has already completed more than one million deals in popular shares since it started four years ago. ShareLink has analysed share purchases and sales for the past 15 months. Included among the buys is Burton Group, the retailer, which at one stage was 64.5p and is now at 78.5p. Medeva, the pharmaceuticals company, which more than doubled its share price last year and has managed to escape the damage that has affected other

drugs companies, was at 21 in ShareLink's top 30 for 1992. Troubled Eurotunnel was one place above it at number 20.

Mr Bartram said: "It is not our experience that small investors only come in when the market in a share has topped out. There are lots of people looking for recovery potential. Seasoned ex-investors who stayed out for some time when interest rates were high and there was a perception that there was a risk in the markets have been coming back for some months."

Neil Stapley, chief executive of NatWest Stockbrokers, said investors were more astute than they were given credit for. "People are saying 'maybe there is something in owning shares' and they are looking and seeing where there are interesting situations."

"They are looking at situations which very often institutions ignore. Institutions often take a shorter view than the average investor, who often feels the time to buy is when the institutions are sellers. There have been a number of occasions recently where big companies have had bad results. Institutions have sold and the price has fallen but has then gone back up again."

Investors were being more adventurous and were willing to take risks.

LINDSAY COOK

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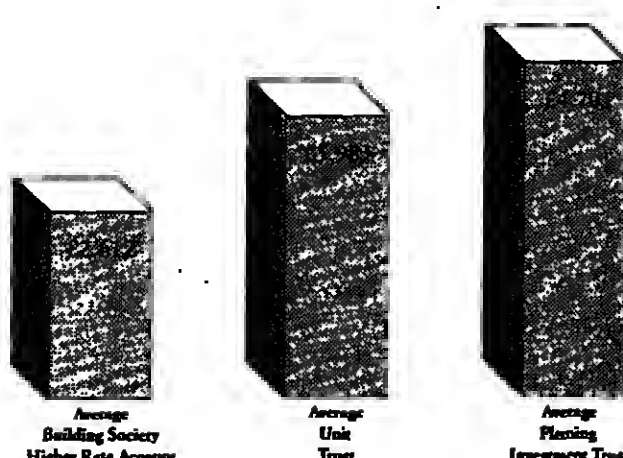
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## Welcome scrip windfall for unit trust holders

By MARGARET DIBBEN

MANY unit trust investors with high income funds will benefit from an unexpected windfall into their funds this year. Fund managers are enjoying a very welcome boost from the scrip dividends recently issued by several of the companies in which they invest.

About half a dozen large companies including BAT, RTZ, Coats Viyella and Forte, have offered their shareholders the option of taking dividends in the form of cash or as extra shares in the form of scrip dividends which are worth up to 50 per cent more than the cash. BAT shares, widely held in income funds, are paying a cash dividend of 22.6p net while the scrip dividend is worth 33.9p.

This is helping fund managers shore up their own dividend payments which are still under pressure as companies continue to hold or cut their dividends. Marian Collins, fund manager of Barclays Unicorn income funds, said: "We are still getting cut dividends coming through and others are not growing while the companies rebuild their reserves."

Previously, when given the



"Payouts still cut": Marian Collins of Barclays Unicorn

choice between cash or scrip dividends, fund managers always went for cash. But this new breed of scrip dividend is so very attractive that fund managers have changed their

attitude and are taking them up. Ms Collins said: "Which ever way you look at it, the fund will receive more and we would be denying our unit-holders value if we didn't take

the scrip dividends." But there is confusion among fund managers about whether the scrip dividends can be treated as cash, and therefore become available for distribution as income to unit-holders, or whether they have to go into the capital account.

They are currently checking the position with their tax advisers but most of them believe that they can treat the scrip shares as cash, which is what they want.

The Inland Revenue is ambivalent but appears to say that fund managers can do whatever their advisers recommend. A spokesman said: "If unit trust companies take the scrip dividends they should probably be credited to capital. But it depends on what is proper to each individual fund and what their auditors will accept. On the other hand, if it is proper to put the dividends on the income account, then it can be distributed."

Either way, high income fund managers welcome the windfall. Ms Collins explained: "However they are treated, unit trust investors benefit by us taking the scrip dividends. It certainly does improve the income account for this year."

John Cornes, director of Brown Shipley, the merchant bank, said: "1992 was a difficult year for income unit trust funds and a tremendous number had to cut their distribution. 1993 will again be a tricky year though not as bad as 1992, so that the gifts we have had from the companies which have offered enhanced dividends in scrip form are greatly appreciated by the income fund managers."

## Look East for long-term growth

By RUPERT BRUCE

THE Chancellor may have officially declared the recession over last week, but investment managers are still loath to recommend UK investments as the best bets for the next five to 10 years.

A straw poll among managers showed them to be a man expecting investments in the emerging markets of the Far East and Latin America to show the most capital growth over the long term.

But most warn that these markets are volatile and advise all but the most risk-happy investors to buy international balanced funds. They are a mixture of bonds and shares in different markets - normally with a heavy UK weighting - and are likely to have a much more stable performance. They also have the advantage of an investment manager who can shift investments around the globe as times change.

Jeremy Tighe, a director at

Foreign & Colonial Management, is typical. He said: "For anyone wanting to make an investment for five to 10 years and forget about it, a global balanced product like Foreign & Colonial Investment Trust is probably ideal. You want to be out of the UK and not dependent on its economy, politicians, or sterling."

"But if you want to take a more speculative approach you can go for a global emerging market fund like Templeton or Genesis run."

Richard Royds, managing director of Mercury Fund Managers, preferred the Far East, excluding Japan, to other emerging markets because China is growing rapidly. "We have the Mercury Portfolio with a balance of bonds and equities. It is ideal if people just want to lock their money away. It is something that has the same asset allocation as the Mercury private clients."

Clive Bootham, managing director of Schroder Unit Trusts, also recommended a global balanced product, the Schroder World Fund. He justified the fund's weighting of up to 60 per cent in UK equities not on grounds of performance, but "because you want to have a bias towards the UK because that is where the ultimate spending is going to be done". This is important because an investment in Britain has the closest correlation with a UK investor's rising cost of living.

Gartmore Fund Managers and Fidelity Investments, the other two investment managers questioned, both regarded the Far East, excluding Japan, as most promising. Fidelity said cautious investors should buy its global balanced PMS Growth Portfolio. Gartmore said cautious investors should buy one of its regional Far East funds, while the speculative should buy a pure Hong Kong fund.

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# Investors are suffering 'information overload'

By Sara McConnell

INVESTORS are being sold unsuitable life assurance, pensions and unit trusts because they are given too much complex, and in some cases, misleading information, the Securities and Investments Board was told in a report this week.

The report was commissioned and published by SIB, whose chairman is Andrew Large, as part of a radical review of its disclosure rules. Earlier disclosure proposals for life assurance and pensions drawn up by SIB and the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation, which regulates marketing activities, have been attacked by the Office of Fair Trading for being "significantly anti-competitive", particularly for failing to say how much of investors' money went to pay charges and expenses.

SIB's proposals and the OFT report on these are being considered by the Chancellor. Tim Miller, author of the report, said that many of the proposals put forward to help investors instead gave them "information overload" from the moment they walked into a broker's office to the time they finally signed on the dotted line.

Salesmen should be compelled to produce a simple status card, saying that they were either a sales representative, working on behalf of one company and only selling that company's policies, or an independent financial adviser, working on the customer's behalf and offering a range of different company policies. The existing client's guide that explains this is too long, Mr



Watchdog: Andrew Large, chairman of the Securities and Investments Board

Miller says. Sales representatives should not be allowed to call themselves company representatives or appointed representatives, which confuses their status for investors. Investors should also have the right to keep a copy of the fact find, filled in by the adviser with details of their client's personal circumstances. Reasons for the adviser's recommendations should be incorporated into the fact find, which they do not have to be at the moment.

General information about the charges, expenses, death benefits, and surrender values at all stages of the policy should be shown in a general illustration. Fourteen days after choosing a policy, the investor buying life assurance or pension policies should be

sent a specific illustration, showing the impact of charges and expenses in the investor's own case and giving him or her the option to cancel.

As now, life offices should use standard growth rates to illustrate possible growth on policies rather than the rate their investments have actually achieved. Mr Miller believes companies should use only one low, growth rate. Now, they can use an upper and a lower standard rate, but this has led many to believe that these rates are guaranteed which they are not.

In a separate development, SIB is to reduce the standard rates. These were set when the Financial Services Act was first implemented in 1988 and now look too high as lower inflation has led to lower

returns on life offices' underlying investments.

Companies will now have to calculate growth on life assurance policies using a lower rate of 5 per cent instead of 7 per cent and an upper rate of 10 per cent instead of 10.5 per cent. Growth projections on pensions will be calculated at 6 per cent instead of 8.5 per cent and 12 per cent instead of 13 per cent. Dates for implementing these changes and details about technical changes will be announced within the next two weeks.

SIB said this week it would not implement any part of its proposed disclosure regime, even that considered acceptable by the OFT, until it had a response from the Treasury. It will also consider the contents of Mr Miller's report.

# Pressure group spawns private bank watchdog

CUSTOMERS experiencing problems with banks have another potential source of advice to turn to after the launch of the Independent Banking Advisory Service (Ibas) this week (Sara McConnell writes).

Ibas is offering help to all personal and business banking customers. A booklet outlining the group's services says customers should ask themselves whether the bank is "levying unreasonable charges" on the accounts or whether they "lack the confidence that the interest charges on their account are correct". If the bank has a charge over a property, customers should ask themselves if they fear that the bank will try to repossess it.

Customers who have this sort of problem, or think they might have, will be charged an initial fee of £25 a year if they are personal customers or £45 a year if they are business customers, to consult Ibas.

The service will have three people handling initial queries at its office in Huntingdon, Cambridgeshire. It says it will also have specialists, including accountants and solicitors, to deal with more complex problems.

This could lead to more charges, but Eddy Weatherill, Ibas's chief executive, could not give an indication of what these might be. He did say Ibas would be a profit-making organisation. Lawyers working for Ibas would give an initial half-hour consultation free of charge. Ibas is hoping to negotiate discounts for those needing further consultations. The founders of Ibas are all

members of the southern branch of the Bank Action Group (Bag), a banking pressure group formed last year, mainly to help small businesses. Mr Weatherill said the 1,500 existing members of Bag (Southern) would get automatic membership of Ibas, which is aiming to attract between 2,000 and 3,000 new members.

Mr Weatherill stressed that Ibas was not intended to be another pressure group but would be set up as a long-term advisory service. The Consumers Association, which has long been highlighting banks' shortcomings and campaigning on personal customers' behalf, said groups such as Ibas were welcome if they were of high quality, but their usefulness depended on the quality of their advice.

Jean Eaglesham, who is the head of mooney policy at the Consumers Association, said: "If a group has a small membership and few research facilities, it could mean a few funny T-shirts for members and that's it."

"Personal customers should be able to handle most problems on their own if they are persistent and they can call on the banking ombudsman if they need to." The banking ombudsman can investigate complaints from personal customers about a range of banking services including cashpoints, cheque guarantee cards, account errors, charges and interest. He has the power to make binding awards of up to £100,000.

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# Families face poverty trap of inadequate insurance

By Sara McConnell

INADEQUATE life assurance cover can spell poverty for families where one partner dies before retirement, according to a survey published this week.

The survey, carried out by Gallup for Legal & General, the insurance company, found that although about two out of three households where one partner was widowed early had life cover, in most cases the cover was inadequate.

Nearly two thirds of the women interviewed who said they had found it difficult to cope financially after the death of their husband had received a lump sum from a life assurance policy but found it was either not nearly enough or not quite enough.

Half the men surveyed found income or lump sums from a life policy inadequate. Gallup surveyed 233 widows and 50 widowers aged be-

tween 25 and 55 and aged under 50 when their partner died. They had been widowed for between one and 20 years and had been left with at least one dependent child.

L&G said the findings of the survey showed the life assurance industry had failed to convince families of the need for simple term assurance. Term assurance policies pay out a lump sum on death but unlike endowment policies will not pay out anything if the policyholder does not die during the term of the policy, so the person paying the premiums does not benefit in his or her lifetime.

Legal & General believes too many people may have been sold endowment policies, which pay out on death but also pay a lump sum on maturity to the policyholder. Endowment premiums are higher than term assurance premiums. More than 50 per

cent of widowed mothers under 55 have an income of less than £10,000 a year and one in four widows loses at least three quarters of the family's income after the death of their partner.

One in seven men lost three quarters of household income after the death of their wife, mainly because they had given up work to look after children.

The survey found women widowed before they were 50 were significantly worse off than men whose wives died early. The average income of a widower is £20,833, more than 80 per cent higher than that of a widow.

The survey said: "Few families had considered how they might cope if either partner died. 45 per cent of respondents had never discussed the sort of financial provision they might need while 23 per cent had done so only rarely."

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# LUMP SUM INVESTMENT

The banks, building societies and institutions are after your money. Helen Pridham gives some sound advice on savings plans

## Gilt-edged savings you can bank on

**R**etirement, redundancy and inheritance are providing an increasing number of people with a lump sum to invest. A year ago most investors would have been happy to deposit it in a building society account where it was possible to earn 8 to 10 per cent. Since then interest rates have tumbled and many investors are now looking for alternatives, particularly those who rely on their savings to provide income.

Alan Mackay, a director of Noble Lowndes, the financial advisers, says: "There is no doubt that investors are veering away from building societies and are prepared to tolerate higher risk, such as in a personal equity plan, if they believe it is going to provide a higher return."

There is no shortage of other organisations eager to attract investors' money away from building societies. The government is one of them. It needs to borrow around £50 billion this year and wants to encourage the public to chip in by buying National Savings products and gilts.

To help reawaken interest in

gilts, the Bank of England has produced a free booklet for the private investor. It has extended the list of stock that can be bought cheaply through the National Savings stock register via the Post Office and lifted the limit on purchases from £10,000 to £25,000.

Gilts used to be an important element of most investors' portfolios, but the high levels of inflation during the 1970s and 1980s severely diminished their appeal. However, with inflation now low — though nobody is sure for how long — and long-dated gilt yields at around 8 per cent, investors could find them attractive.

The government is competing against the insurance industry, which has a whole battery of lump sum investment bonds on offer. With-profits bonds and guaranteed equity bonds have been among the top sellers because they seem to offer investors the prospect of

gaining from a rising stock market without the risk of losing capital. But investors need to look carefully at the costs involved and at the small print of any guarantees. There is generally a 6 per cent upfront charge on an insurance bond. The future bonuses on a with-profits bond are not guaranteed and, if market conditions are unfavourable when you cash in, insurers reserve the right to adjust payouts accordingly. Bonds that guarantee a percentage return in line with the FTSE 100 share index rarely include an allowance for dividend in-

**'Investors may be sucked into products by marketing hype'**

come, so you will not enjoy the full rewards of a stock market investment. After five long, lean years since the 1987 stock market crash, lower interest rates have made unit trust yields more competitive, particularly when the income can be obtained tax free through a PEP.

Investment trust companies are equally anxious to maintain the progress they have achieved in

recent years in attracting back private investors through their low-cost savings and lump-sum investment schemes. The building societies are fighting back, launching a constant stream of new accounts, among which postal accounts are proving particularly popular.

However, David Major, tax partner at accountants Touche Ross, is concerned that investors may be sucked into products by the current marketing hype without considering them in the context of their overall financial position. "Someone who has been made redundant needs his capital to be secure and easy to get at, so he should stick to short-term deposits," he says. "Retired people have to think longer term. They should try to avoid becoming so income-oriented that they forget about capital growth and the need to protect their money from inflation."

Mr Mackay agrees: "Investors still need to keep some money handy in a building society account for emergencies. They should make sure that their investments are tax efficient and not put all their eggs in one basket."



The Bank of England: it has produced a free booklet to reawaken the public's interest in gilts

## As safe as the government

National Savings are the answer for investors seeking maximum security



Investing: National Savings are sold at post offices

**I**nvestors who prize security above all else should look no further than National Savings. Over the years investors have willingly surrendered some extra interest that could be earned on other investments for the added security of a promise from the government to repay.

But the rates offered now by National Savings require no sacrifice of interest — they compete easily with investments offered by the building societies. Tony Murrell, managing director of Fraser Marr, an independent financial adviser, says: "National Savings are as safe as the government."

National Savings offer a wide range of certificates, bonds and savings accounts through post offices or by writing to centres at Durham, Glasgow, Blackpool and Lytham St Anne's in Lancashire. Four tax-free investments are now available. The sixth index-linked savings certificates offer interest in line with the retail price index, plus extra interest of 3.325 per cent per annum compound when the certificates are held for five years. The fortieth issue of savings certificates pays 5.75 per cent per annum compound when held for five years. For both types of certificates, the minimum purchase is £100 with additional amounts in units of £25.

Children's Bonus Bonds, which can be bought by anyone aged 16 or over, for children under 16, are also tax-free. The bonds pay 7.85 per cent per annum compound when held for five years, providing a good way for people to give money to grandchildren. Investors will be notified, after five years, of further guaranteed returns before each following anniversary until the recipient's 21st birthday. The bonds can be bought in multiples of £25 up to a total holding of

£1,000. With Premium Bonds, return of capital is guaranteed and each £1 bond has a one in 15,000 chance of winning when Ernie, the electronic machine, picks winners at random.

Nick Bamford, a partner of Weybourne Financial Services, an independent financial adviser, says: "In a time of falling interest rates, a flutter on Premium Bonds might be worthwhile — there are 160,000 tax-free prizes a month, from £50 to £250,000."

Investors can speculate from £100 to £20,000. Bonds are eligible for prize draws three months after calendar purchase. National Savings also operates a stock register for government stocks or "gilts". Gilts are Stock Exchange securities issued by the government and usually have a life of 20 years or less. They pay dividends twice a year throughout this period. At the end of their life, they are redeemed at face value.

Any gilts listed on the National Savings stock register pay interest in full, so if the investor is a taxpayer, he or she must notify the Inland Revenue of earnings. Investors can buy gilts on the National Savings stock register by post, without having to go through a stockbroker. Transactions cost £1 in commission for the first £250 invested, and a further 50p for every additional £125. This compares with stockbroker charges of £15 to £20.

**JILL INSLEY**

Details of sixth index-linked, fortieth issue and Yearly Plan: National Savings; Durham DH99 1NS; Children's Bonus Bonds; First Option Bonds; Capital Bonds; Investment Account and Ordinary Account; National Savings; Glasgow G58 1SB; Premium Bonds; National Savings; Lytham St Anne's FY9 1YN; Income Bonds; National Savings; Blackpool FY3 9YP

**The bonus bonds can benefit the young**

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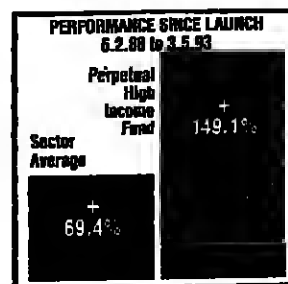
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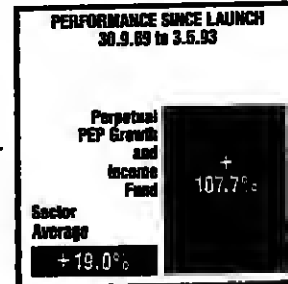
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## The best deal is in the post

Building society postal schemes pay highest rates, says Helen Pridham

Over the past 25 years, Britain's building societies have had great success in attracting savers. The proportion of adults with a building society account has grown from 15 per cent in 1968 to 65 per cent today. But interest rates paid by the societies have fallen and now average 3 or 4 per cent. Many savers are therefore wondering whether it is time to move their money.

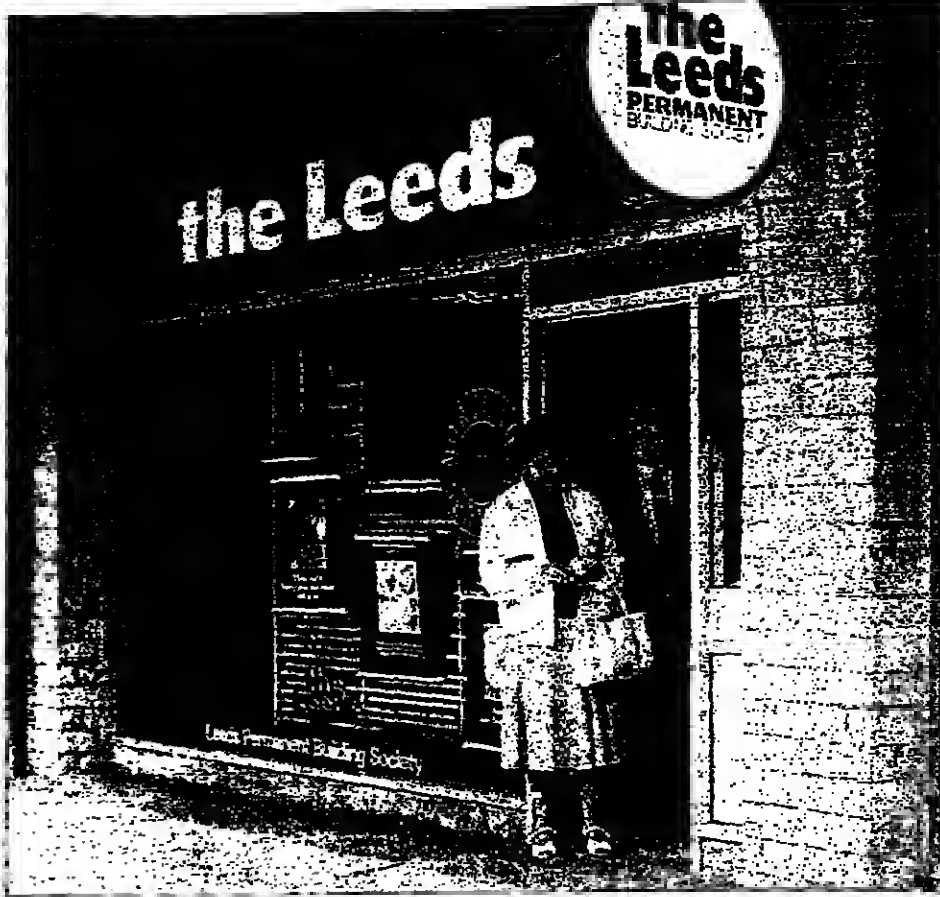
Building societies are aware of the challenge they face. John Wigglesworth, the building society analyst at UBS, the stockbrokers, says: "Societies know they have to come up with innovative products if they are to retain savers."

Building society savers outnumber borrowers by six to one. But most funds are kept in a relatively small number of accounts. In mid-1992, only 9 per cent of accounts had balances of more than £10,000, but these accounted for 69 per cent of building

society total investments. These are the investors whom societies have to keep happy. Jennifer Kirby, Bradford & Bingley's marketing development manager for retail funds, believes societies have to be careful about how they tackle this problem. She says: "Our research shows that investors do not want to be attracted to an account by very high rates, which are then allowed to become uncompetitive."

Investors certainly need to keep on their toes to make sure they are getting the best deal. One way of improving your returns if you have small amounts in several accounts is to pool your money in one account where, as a larger sum, it will earn a higher rate of interest.

Finding out which society is offering the best rates is not always easy because new accounts are being started continually. Vicky Burns, of Moneyfacts, a rate-monitoring company, says: "The latest trends among societies are



Expressing interest: building societies are devising higher-return deposit accounts

postal accounts and accounts that give extra annual bonuses if savers make no withdrawals.

Another recent innovation is the increasing interest bond. Bristol & West and Abbey National offer five-year bonds giving a fixed rate of interest guaranteed to rise by a certain amount each year.

Postal accounts are well worth considering if you are prepared to swap the convenience of the high street for

more interest. They are mainly instant access accounts (subject to the time it takes a cheque to reach you through the post), paying 2 per cent to 3 per cent more than society local branch accounts.

Some of the best monthly income accounts are postal accounts. They include Bradford & Bingley's Direct Notice, 30-day notice account, which pays 7.25 per cent on investments starting at £10,000, Britannia's Capital Trust ac-

count and Yorkshire Building Society's First Class Return account. One of the newest postal accounts is run by Nationwide. Customers make deposits by post, but are offered a cashcard to make immediate withdrawals through a cash machine at branch offices.

The Britannia offers an index-linked interest account and a three-year bond promising a return related to the rise in the stock market, or your money back if share prices fall.

## Weigh the risks before you leap

Investment trusts are an ideal choice for small investors who want a taste of stock market investment with the safety of a fund manager making the buying and selling decisions.

But this is not the same thing as saying that all investment trusts are suitable for all investors and it is important for investors to understand where the dangers lie.

You will not go wrong with broadly-spread investment trusts, but you do need to think carefully about the more specialised ones such as the cleverly-constructed split capital funds, venture capital trusts and single country funds.

Ernest Fenton, previously a stockbroker, has just been appointed director-general of the Association of Investment Trust Companies. He advises:

"Large generalist investment trusts that have been around for a long time and have a good track record are a sensible basis for anybody's portfolio, whether a starter buying equities or a professional investor. But, problems arise when people cannot differen-



Ben Siddons: warning

tiate between a good solid generalist trust and trusts for very specific purposes."

Ben Siddons, managing director of Kleinwort Investment Trust Management, has

spearheaded a move to highlight the risks. He has warned investors against reinvesting their dividends from ordinary shares because, in a falling stock market, they could lose their capital. "However, split level investment trusts give a tremendous opportunity to people who want capital growth or income. This is why we want to preserve the integrity of these products," he says.

When a split capital investment trust is wound up, as they all are after a fixed number of years, the fund needs to have earned enough money over the years to pay back all shareholders.

Mr Siddons explains: "A lot of trusts with up to ten-year

lives have to grow at 10 per cent or 11 per cent a year to get the money back. The danger is that people with FEPs think they have a store of tax-free wealth, but they could suddenly find they get no capital back, apart from a huge dividend at the end."

To help investors keep track of whether the fund is on target, the AITC publishes "hardly rates" which show how much each fund must earn every year to have enough assets at the end to repay all shareholders.

MARGARET DIBBEN

● River & Merrett's Guide to Split Capital Investment Trusts: £4 a copy from J Lincoln's Inn Fields, London WC2A 3BP

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# Unit trusts snap back into popularity

Investors looking beyond their building society accounts are clearly finding unit trusts an attractive alternative. Unit trust companies reported record sales of more than £4 billion during the first quarter this year, bringing the total amount invested in unit trusts to an all-time high of £70.7 billion.

The returns offered by trusts are running at a competitive 4 to 6 per cent, though some specialist funds are quoting yields of up to 10 per cent. Investors can also get tax-free income through a personal equity plan.

Julian Tregoning, the new chairman of the Association of Unit Trust and Investment Funds, believes that 1993 could be the start of a new era for unit trusts. He says: "In the past, investors have tended to lurch between building societies and unit trusts, often getting their timing wrong and moving into unit trusts when the stock market was too high. But it looks as though we are now at the beginning of a prolonged period of lower interest rates, and equities are offering very good value."

Not surprisingly, most of the interest this year has centred on high-income funds. Most trusts pay their income half-yearly, which can be reinvested if not required immediately. But an increasing number of unit trusts are offering funds paying quarterly or monthly in-

**Unit trusts have reached record sales, boosted by their image as a safe share-buying scheme. Helen Pridham reports**

comes. Monthly income is obtainable from funds such as Buckmaster High Income and Commercial Union's Monthly Income Plus fund. Fidelity and M&G have recently launched monthly income funds with yields of 5.75 per cent and 4.3 per cent, respectively.

Fast performance shows that UK equity income funds have traditionally been among the best performing in the industry, though they are not without their ups and downs. Last year, for example, many funds lost ground and had to reduce their income payments following cuts in companies' dividend payments. Nevertheless, an investor who had put £1,000 into the average income fund ten years ago would have seen his income rise from £78 in 1984 to £136 last year, while the value of his capital would have climbed to £3,146.

In order to increase income yields and mitigate possible capital

fluctuations, some companies are including fixed-interest securities, such as gilts, in their portfolios. Fidelity has a 45 per cent exposure to fixed interest security in its High Income Plan, and Cazenove's Utility and Bond fund, launched in February, is offering a yield of 7 per cent by investing in a combination of utilities stocks, such as water and gas, and gilts. The highest yielding unit trust launched so far this year is Hypo Foreign & Colonial income fund, which offers 10 per cent. It will achieve this income by selling options against its holdings of shares and cash.

Unlike a traditional income fund, however, the income is unlikely to grow and while the managers hope to maintain the capital value of the fund, it is not guaranteed.

Another type of income producing unit trust that is increasing in popularity is the global bond fund. These funds are finding favour because they are able to offer relative security with the prospect of

some capital growth at the same time. They deal in the bonds of other governments and foreign corporations and aim to gain from currency as well as market movements. The largest fund is Mercury Asset Management's Global bond fund, which has produced a total return over the past year of 24 per cent, partly thanks to sterling's decline at the end of last year. Bond funds are currently yielding an average of 6 per cent.

If you are concerned about how to choose the best investment manager, you could always opt for an index tracker fund. These funds, run by companies such as James Capel, aim to match the performance of the relevant stock market indices, such as the FTSE 100 — a feat that many actively managed funds have failed to achieve in the past.

Many funds invest in overseas stock markets. At the beginning of this year, many investment managers were forecasting that trusts investing in the emerging economies of the Far East, such as Thailand, Malaysia and the Philippines, were those likely to produce the best gains during 1993. But in recent weeks, it has been Japanese funds that have been surging ahead having spent the last couple of years in the doldrums. Those investing in unit trusts should, however, understand that it is a medium to long-term investment.



The Yashica camera factory, Japan: global bond funds investing overseas are paying dividends

## Step carefully, the best policy

Endowment insurance can be a good investment if bought wisely

Sales of lump sum life insurance policies have boomed in recent years. Many people who have lost their jobs have been persuaded to invest their redundancy money in single premium bonds, and in particular unitised with-profits bonds.

According to the Association of British Insurers, £5,025 million has been invested in unitised with-profits bonds over the past two years. Some fear, however, that some insurance salesmen may have led investors to believe bonds are short term investments.

People who have lost their jobs will probably be living off their savings and need easy access to their money. This makes with-profits bonds unsuitable.

For those who have some capital to invest, but are wary of stock market investments, with-profits bonds can be an attractive alternative to unit-linked policies. The value of unit-linked policies is much more closely linked to stock market fluctuations. With-profits bonds provide a smoother growth of capital.

One unusual alternative to with-profits bonds can be found in the second-hand endowment market. Investors

can buy traditional with-profits endowment policies part of the way through their term from dealers or at auctions, at a large discount to the value on maturity if payments of the policy premiums are kept up. Raymond Harris, director of Gerald Edelman plc, says secondhand policies can be suitable for wealthy individuals who already have substantial investment portfolios, for self-administered pension funds, for people putting money into trusts for children or for tax planning.

Insurance companies have two basic strategies on profit distribution, through annual bonuses, to their endowment policies. Some declare very generous annual bonuses and less generous terminal bonuses on maturity of the policy. Other offices may leave profits to accrue in the with-profits fund to pay out bigger terminal bonuses.

Mr Harris says the first type of policy suits the more risk-averse investor who likes to know roughly what he will be getting, whereas the second type of policy might appeal to those prepared to gamble on the final bonus.

JILL INSLEY

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Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

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\*Source: Miroslav, Guaranteed Equity Reserve II. The term of the Account is fixed from 1 June 1993 to 1 June 1998. Withdrawals allowed after the first year subject to 60 days notice and may be subject to a penalty. (If the FT-SE 100 index has dropped, a 5% charge will be incurred in the case of early withdrawal). For full details, refer to the terms and conditions in the Account booklet. Interest is credited to the account at the end of the five year term. The growth of the FT-SE 100 index excludes any form of income payment. Interest payable net of basic rate income tax on, to qualifying investors, gross. The levels and bases of taxation and the tax reliefs which apply may change and the value of tax reliefs is dependent upon individual circumstances. FT-SE 100 is a joint service and trade mark of the Financial Times Limited and the London Stock Exchange. This advertisement does not imply endorsement of the product by the Financial Times Limited or the London Stock Exchange. National & Provincial Building Society, Bradford BDI 1NL.



Gross annual income, payable monthly in arrears, guaranteed 5 years, for an investment of £10,000.			
Male - age 75	Female - age 75	Male - age 75	Female - age 75
PRNPFN	Royal Life	MGH Assurance	MGH Assurance
£1,545	£1,521	£1,459	£1,459
Standard Life	Standard Life	Source: The Annuity Bureau Ltd.	Standard Life
£1,489	£1,489		£1,293

# A winning move for life

Annuities can be ideal to protect capital and income in retirement, Helen Pridham writes

For elderly investors seeking an income, an annuity can have considerable attractions. Yields are higher than building society returns, the income is normally a fixed amount and it is guaranteed for the rest of their lives. Part of each annuity payment is tax exempt, making it a tax-efficient income compared with the fully taxable interest from a building society account.

However, Peter Quinton, the director of The Annuity Bureau, the annuity specialists, cautions: "When you invest a lump sum in an annuity you hand over your money for good to the insurance company in return for a guaranteed income. So annuities are only suitable for people who no longer need access to that capital or want to pass it on to their dependants when they die."

Providing this position is understood, Mr Quinton believes there are situations in which annuities can be especially useful, such as where a husband is concerned that his wife should receive a secure income after his death. In this case a joint life annuity can be purchased, which will continue to pay the same income to his wife after he dies.

For elderly people entering a nursing home or requiring home nursing, an annuity can also be attractive. Mr Quinton says: "We were recently able to obtain an 18 per cent return on an annuity for an 85-year-old female client in this position."

Annuity rates are largely determined by long-term returns on gilts. Over the past three years, rates have fallen by around 20 per cent, but they have

recently started to increase again, reflecting improving gilt yields. The actual return received by an investor, however, will depend on the person's age and sex. The older you are, the better the return you will receive — and men will get more than women of the same age. Currently a man of 75 can obtain a return of up to 15 per cent while a woman of the same age would get a top annuity rate of around 13 per cent.

This is because insurers base their payments on average life expectancy. As women generally live longer, the income must be spread over a longer period. Also the tax-free element of each annuity payment increases with age. Generally, it is not advisable for men to invest in annuities until they are at least 70, and women 75 or older.

Annuities also have drawbacks. One snag is that as the income is normally fixed, investors will not benefit if interest rates start to increase again, possibly in the medium term — and their capital cannot be invested elsewhere. There is also the risk that the rate of inflation may rise again.

Investors loath to be permanently parted from their capital can avoid this disadvantage by combining a temporary annuity with an investment plan designed to return some or all of their capital back at the end of a fixed term of five or ten years. Clerical Medical, for example, offers a temporary annuity, providing a high fixed income for five years combined with a unit trust PEP. If the PEP grows as assumed, it should be worth enough to replace the original capital, but there is no guarantee.



Hit or miss? It pays to play the stock market with care in old age

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\*Source: Mifcoral - offer to bid with gross income reinvested 01.04.90 - 01.04.93. \*\*Mifcoral awards 1992.

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## Beware of the ties that bind

Some financial advisers may be pushing the products of favoured companies without regard for the investor

The investor's choice of financial adviser may have an important impact on the type of investments he or she is recommended to make. Banks and building societies have traditionally been regarded as a safe source of financial advice. But all of the high street banks and most building societies have be-

come "tied agents" — they can only recommend the products of one life insurance company. The life insurance company in the tied relationship will be primarily chosen for the commercial benefits to the bank or building society rather than for the customer.

In some cases this does not matter. Britain's largest building society, the Halifax, has tied to Standard Life, an insurance company that has consistently topped the with-

profits endowment tables. In comparison, however, the second biggest building society, Nationwide, is tied to Guardian Royal Exchange, whose products are scraping the bottom of the tables.

Investors who want impartial advice on the full range of insurance and investment products should consult an independent financial adviser. These vary enormously in scale of operation, from a one-man band on the high street to large international operations, and may have very

different areas of specialisation. To offer advice on investments, they must all be authorised by an approved regulator.

These include Fimbra, which regulates about 6,200 advisers dividing them into three, different categories. Members of category one and two are permitted to handle client money, while category three members are not.

The Insurance Brokers Registration Council regulates in-

surance brokers, who deal predominantly in general insurance but with some investment and insurance as well as legal or accountancy services.

If an adviser says he is regulated by Lantro, he is a tied agent or direct salesman, allowed to sell the products of only one company. All advisers are required by law to carry professional indemnity insurance, which is paid out should they be sued successfully by an investor.

The regulators operate a compensation scheme, which pays up to £48,000 to investors who suffer.

JILL INSLEY



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\*Gross rates for monthly income £10,000+ 7.02%, £25,000+ 7.49%, £50,000+ 7.72%, £100,000+ 7.95%.  
\*Interest will be payable net of the basic rate of income tax or, subject to the required certification, gross. Where tax deducted exceeds the investor's tax liability (if any), a claim may be made to the Inland Revenue for repayment of tax. Rates may vary. Once this account ceases to be on offer, no further investment can be made in the account until the two year guarantee period ends. One withdrawal of up to £5,000 will be allowed without notice or penalty and other withdrawals may be made at 90 days' notice or immediately subject to the loss of 90 days' interest. If any withdrawal takes the balance below £10,000, our Ordinary Share rate will apply. A 4% premium over our Ordinary Share rate is guaranteed for 2 years. After the guarantee period of two years ends, withdrawals may be made without notice or penalty. All withdrawals subject to normal branch limits of £250 in cash and £100,000 by cheque. Full terms and conditions available on request from any Woolwich branch, Woolwich Building Society, or

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1960	£9,108	£1,589
1965	£15,679	£1,901
1970	£30,269	£2,369
1975	£35,455	£3,304
1980	£72,231	£5,046
1985	£191,470	£7,741
1990	£396,266	£12,052
1993	£677,973	£14,155

This table may come as a shock for building society account holders.

But these are the facts of life for savers. Rising prices, the rising cost of living, inflation that won't go away, mean that you really have to invest to save seriously over the longer term.

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No	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Real Time	Electrical	
2	Shure Hides	Insurance	
3	Yorkshire Elec	Electricity	
4	Slough Estates	Property	
5	Shell	Oil, Gas	
6	Rolls-Royce	Motorcars	
7	Waddy Group	Building, Rols	
8	Waddy Water	Water	
9	Burton & Brw	Breweries	
10	Usher TV	Leisure	
11	BSS Group	Industrial	
12	Harmony	Mining	
13	Minimex	Mining	
14	Assoc Br Ports	Transport	
15	Br Borneo	Oil, Gas	
16	Lopez	Paper, Print	
17	Wessex Water	Water	
18	Suppi	Paper, Print	
19	Johnson Math	Industrial	
20	Altrons	Leisure	
21	Vaux Group	Breweries	
22	Widdowson	Building, Rols	
23	Daniels S	Food	
24	Wellcom	Mining	
25	Trout	Food	
26	Harries	Mining	
27	Wagon Ind	Industrial	
28	Wobley	Industrial	
29	Striding Op	Food	
30	Park Foods	Food	
31	MTL Int	Electrical	
32	Hutch Whamp	Business Serv	
33	YRM	Building, Rols	
34	Johnson	Industrial	
35	Worham SG	Bank, Disc	
36	Dun & Gen	Insurance	
37	THORN EMI	Electrical	
38	Wood John D	Property	
39	Br Steel	Industrial	

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If you have ticked off your eighth share in our Match The Shares game today, claim your prize by telephoning 0254 53272 between 10.00am and 3.30pm (see the Sunday Times for full details)

The Portfolio Plus prize of £2,000 was won by Mr P Elderfield of Guildford.

## BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
40	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
41	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
42	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
43	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
44	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
45	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
46	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
47	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
48	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
49	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
50	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## BREWERIES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
51	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
52	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
53	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
54	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
55	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
56	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
57	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
58	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
59	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
60	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## BUILDING, ROADS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
61	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
62	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
63	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
64	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
65	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
66	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
67	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
68	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
69	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
70	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## Late rally lifts shares

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began April 19. Dealings ended yesterday. Settlement day May 17. Share gains are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

## High Low Company Price Net Div Yld P/E

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
71	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
72	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
73	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
74	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
75	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
76	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
77	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
78	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
79	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
80	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## BUSINESS SERVICES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
81	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
82	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
83	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
84	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
85	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
86	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
87	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
88	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
89	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
90	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
91	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
92	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
93	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
94	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
95	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
96	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
97	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
98	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
99	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
100	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## DRAPERY, STORES

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
101	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
102	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
103	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
104	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
105	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
106	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
107	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
108	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
109	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
110	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## ELECTRICALS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
111	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
112	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
113	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
114	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
115	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
116	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
117	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
118	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
119	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
120	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## ELECTRICITY

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
121	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
122	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
123	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
124	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
125	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
126	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
127	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
128	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
129	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
130	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## FINANCE, LAND

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
131	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
132	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
133	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
134	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
135	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
136	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
137	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
138	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
139	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
140	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## FINANCIAL TRUSTS

1993	High	Low	Company	Price	Net	Div	Yld	P/E
141	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
142	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
143	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
144	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
145	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
146	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
147	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
148	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
149	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
150	24	24	Abey Ltd	24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## FOODS

691	ASB Bond	471	0.1	140	3
692	ASB Corp	471	0.1	140	3
693	ASB Corp	471	0.1	140	3
694	Ascher Pctner	18	0.0	67	7
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THE TIMES SATURDAY MAY 8 1993

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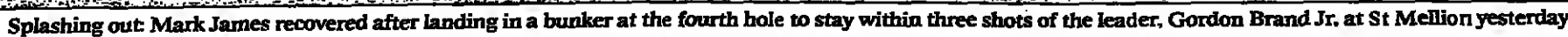
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**BY PATRICIA DAVIES**

Mark James, the golfer with cold hands and green fingers, was on five under, alongside José María Olazábal, with Nick Faldo, who dropped a

Brand Jr conceded he had had the best of the conditions

138: G Brand Jnr, 67, 69, 138: J Heepman (Swe), 69, 69: P Brochhurst, 69, 69, 138: J-M Okrabell (Spl), 67, 72: M James, 68, 71, 140: N Feldo, 70, 70, 141: A Odoorn, 71, 70, 0: Evans, 72 (B): B Struwer (Ger), 67, 74, 142: C Raab, 68, 70, 72: R Chapman, 70, 72: C Montgomerie, 70, 72: P McGinley, 72, 70: S Ames (Tig), 76, 67: A Giller (Sw), 74, 66: D A Russell, 70, 72, 143: P Senior (Aus), 74, 89: V Smith (Fiji), 60, 73.

144: P Baker, 75, 69: M Pozzer, 72, 72: B Lane, 69, 72: C Clark, 76, 69: M Roe, 73, 71: R Davis (Aus), 71, 73: R Goosen (SA), 76, 68: 145: A Murray, 73, 72: D Curry, 74, 71: A

147: M Moulard, 70, 77; H P Threl (Ger), 74; P Holt, 74, 73; M McLean, 74, 73; M A Jimenez, 74, 73; G Orr, 74, 73; C Mason, 74; S Field, 76, 71; R Karlsson (Swe), 73; J Carlinis (Sw), 75, 72; S Sunesson (Swe), 75, 72; A Sorenson (Den), 74, 73; G Turner (NZ), 74; G J Brand, 69, 76; M Ferry (Fr), 73; T Love (Fr), 74, 73; R Wilson, 74, 73.

par but finished four over. After two holes yesterday, he was seven over but five birdies later he was only two over. A triple-bogey eight at the 7th, his 16th, was a low blow he could have done without and when he walked up to his drive at the 9th and found it out of bounds he just kept on walking.

However, Allenby was ailing so much he signed for a five at the last and was disqualified — a fitting end to a far from perfect day.

It has been no less a frustrating season for St Helens, who were pipped by Wigan for the league title on points difference. They have delayed naming a side, though Gary Connolly, the Great Britain centre, is hopeful of coming through a fitness test on an ankle injury.

**YACHTING:** Group 4 Securitas has moved up to compete with Commercial Union for the lead on the final stage of the British Steel Challenge to Southampton. The ten boats are tightly packed off the Gambia coast and Commercial Union lost vital time when forced to tack clear of the Dos Bijagos Islands. Group 4 has sailed a more direct course and by 14:00 yesterday was within three miles of the lead, despite losing four hours when her crew went to the aid of a fishing boat that appeared to have engine problems. After transferring food to the crew of 15 and alerting the rescue authorities, Group 4 continued racing and will doubtless claim the time lost on return to Southampton in two weeks' time. This could affect the outcome, for Nuclear Electric, with a tenuous eight-hour lead in the overall standings, was two hours behind Group 4 and sailing two knots slower.

**REAL TENNIS:** The world champion, Penny Lumley, and Alex Garside, both of Britain, reached the semi-finals of the women's world championship in Bordeaux with straight-sets victories. Garside, the second seed and world doubles champion, outhit the fluent Katrina Allen, a former British Open champion, for the loss of only three games. Lumley was made to work harder by the Australian, Fiona Deuchar, sister of the world championship challenger, Lachie.

□ Chris Ronaldson, the former world champion, played some of his best tennis of the year to defeat the Oratory School professional, Jonathan Howell, in straight sets to reach the semi-finals of the BNB British Professional championship at Holyport. Ronaldson, the Hampton Court professional, now meets Lachie Deuchar, who beat the Leamington professional, Kevin Sheldon.

**CYCLING:** The two British professional teams signed up for the Milk Race later this month — Banana and Neilson-Tivoli — could face penalties for missing tomorrow's Premier Calendar series race at Barnsley. Instead, Banana are competing in the Tour of Austria and the Neilson-Tivoli in Ireland. The rules of the Professional Cycling Association do not allow more than one team at a time to race overseas. Gary Coltman, until last weekend the Premier Calendar leader, could benefit from the absence of his rivals. He is third, 27 points behind Mark Walsham and 16 points behind Chris Lillywhite, both competing in Austria. A place in the top three in Barnsley would give Coltman a minimum of 30 points and make him the series leader again.

**CRICKET:** Bruce Taylor, the former New Zealand all-rounder and selector, was sent to prison for two years yesterday after being found guilty of stealing NZ\$368,000 (about £70,000) from John McGlashan College, Dunedin, where he was an administrator. Taylor, who was a selector until the time of his arrest, stole the money in 172 separate incidents to finance a seven-year gambling spree. Taylor, who has been undergoing treatment for gambling addiction, said in the 12 months before his arrest he had been gambling nearly £100 a day. "It was every race and every meeting," he said.

**BY DAVID POWELL, ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT**

The delay to Christie's season was scheduled because the

"Our primary role is to be the pinnacle of a league system which provides one of

The league has widened its role to assisting disabled athletes. Today it begins a junior wheelchair grand prix. "It is our contribution towards the integration of handicap events into main sport," Simons said.

Today's match will have an added meaning in that, since they have already secured the first division championship, they are intent on achieving the double success. This has not been accomplished before. Swansea came close last year, but having won the league, Llanelli denied them the cup.

BY GERALD DAVIES

gives me access to international rugby." Llanelli have played with such artistry and speed this season that they have set a trend that others need to follow next autumn. In their 22 league games they scored 136 tries. This is in no small measure due to Jenkins' attitude.

This afternoon's challenge is to see whether they can adapt to Neath's tactics. Llanelli are the clear favourites.

Rupert Moon, the outstanding captain of the club, must find his way free from the stranglehold which his opponents intend to impose.

## POINT-TO-POINT

BY BRIAN BEEL

It is wishful thinking that See More Indians, Hops And Pops and Indian Knight will all fulfil their engagement for the open at the New Forest.

**FROM OUR FRENCH RACING  
CORRESPONDENT, PARIS**

The home team is headed by the unbeaten Zieten, who attempts to complete the Guineas double for Andre Fabre. The trainer is also represented in the group two Prix Hocquart by Fort Wood, who misses the Lingfield Derby Trial to run here.

GOING: GOOD

1 311D FULL C/PRAISE 17 (C.D.F.B) P Calver  
2 6030 REGAL ROMPER 14 (D.G) Mrs S Smith  
3 6-40 ADDINGTON LAD 17 G Richards 0-11-3  
4 60-3 ASHOREN 17 A Harrison 0-11-3  
5 4232 ASTRALEON 8 R Allan 5-11-3  
6 PO DUNGLA'S BIRTHDAY 28 G Coombes  
7 HYDRIC 873F D Chapman 0-11-3  
8 00 KIRCHWYN LAD 40 R Leadbetter 5-11  
8 00-0 KIRCHWYN 7 B Temple 8-11-3

	5	OF PE	WILLIAM
SIS	7	5203	PORTAND
	8	POPO	IMPERTA

12-3 \_\_\_\_\_ T Read  
5-11-10 \_\_\_\_\_ D Towler (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_ B Harding (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_ S Taylor (7)  
\_\_\_\_\_ A Ockony  
-11-3 \_\_\_\_\_ A Morrison  
\_\_\_\_\_ R Gentry  
\_\_\_\_\_ C Grant  
Mr. S. Walker (7)

77 (B.S.S.) C Parker 9-10-2..... D Parker (7)  
(V.C.D.F) W Cunningham 13-10-1 .. M Buckley (5)

J. 36 S Leinster 7-11-7 \_\_\_\_\_ C Hawtins  
 GROW 32 R Lamb D-11-7 \_\_\_\_\_ A Merrigan  
 G White 10-11-7 \_\_\_\_\_ A Ockney  
 Gwynn Ann Bowley 12-11-2 \_\_\_\_\_ G Harler  
 Zarn Bar, 2-1 Mordun Bell, 14-1 others.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM

**2.00 RHYDD NOVICES CHASE**  
 (1,925: 2m 4f 110yd) (9)  
 1 0316 DRAGONS DEN 21 (D,G) S Sharnwood 7-1  
 2 514P MAN OF MYSTERY 14 (B,D,BF,S) N Telford

7 1526 CORONA'S TOP  
8 /061 YASLOU 1D (1  
9 64F3 HONEST FRIEND  
10 2206 WEST BAY 15

6 344- ARMS WELD 3  
 4 4350 ANDY BOY 5  
 5 6232 UNEX-PLAINED  
 8 3043 SLIPPERY MA  
 7 150P BILL AND COL  
 8 332- TRY ME NOW  
 11-4 Unex-Plained, 3-1 Fakers  
 And Corp, D-1 Try Me Now, 11

N 14 (C.F.6) H Brown D-10-11 J L Llewellyn  
W Muir D-10-5 G Lewis  
11 (V) J Edwards 7-10-2 T Jones

12-11-0 ..... H Davies  
 T. C. 9-10-0 ..... A Maguire  
 (D.B.S.) M Channon 10-10-0 ..... Louis Vincent  
 (F.B.) R. Jackson 0-10-0 ..... D Slayman  
 14 (D.F.G.) K Morgan 8-10-0 ..... A S Smith  
 3 (D.F.) Miss E England 7-10-0 ..... R Sepple  
 5-7-2 Copper Mine, 6-1 Slippery Max, 7-1 Ball  
 others.

3.00 DUBAI POUCE D'ESSENCE DES  
POULAINS (Group 1) 3-Y-O colts:  
2:18.74-4:1m (10 runners, all carry 9-2)  
1-3 Timmers Way J Gostein (GB) (Pat  
Edwards); 1:12-14e Rambler R Conway  
(Dubai) (W R Swinburn); 10-2 Beinfried  
A Fabre (O Hester); 1:11-2e A Fabre (T  
Hester); 1:11-2e H Harburg (W  
M Roberts); 5-21 Hudo F Boulon (E Saint-  
Martin); 2:32-1 Kingambard F Boulon (C  
Aernescu); 2:42-2 Semblion Mme M Bol-  
lach-Badel (A Badel); 0-61 Fin Pledge P  
Cole (G A Munro); 1-14 Fantastic  
Dream E Lehoucq (D Bouff).

3-4 Zlatan and Beinfried (coupled), 3-1  
Ben Awead, 5-1 Kingambard and Hudo  
F Boulon, 1-2 Fin Pledge, 8-1 Timmers  
Way, 10-1 Phatman.

**7.15 NEWCASTLE BREWHERIES T**  
**NORTH NORWICH HANDICAP HURDLE**  
(£3,492; 2m 4f) (4)

1 2421 HIXSON BAY TRADER 28 (C.O.F.S.) P  
2 1111 ATZADALE 14 (C.O.F.S.) L Long 0-11  
3 0202 TEMPLE GARTH 28 (C.O.F.S.) J Johnson  
4 2121 THE GATE 47 (C.O.F.S.) M Harrison  
5 4 4444

**P OF THE FINAL**

**SUMMERS S-12-3**

F Leamy (7)  
T Reed  
10-12 A Cronk  
10-10 G Grant

**7-2 Dirty, 4-1 The Green F.**  
**12-1 Christmas Holly, TV R**

**COWBOY**

**TRAINERS:** P Calver,  
born 11, 27.5%; N Hays  
21.2%; J Johnson, 16.  
14.8%.

**JOCKEYS:** M A Turner,  
son, 3 from 10, 30.0%  
from 21, 26.1%; G Mc  
23.1%.

**5-1 Tapach, D-1 Coastal Pass, 3-1 San Pan Mateo, 14-1 others.**

**USE SPECIALISTS**

**winners from 9 runners. 33.3%; P Beaumont, 3 from 41, 22.4%; S Moore, 18 from 75, 24%; M 62, 18.2%; Mrs S Bradford, 8 from 41.**

**3 winners from 9 riders. 33.3%: Mr N Williams, 40 from 152, 26.3%; N Bentley, 3 from 15, 20%; A Dobson, 3 from 13.**

1 1212 MUSTAWEAWEAKNE 21 (D) D Milwaukee 7-1  
2 -540 TEAM CHALLENGE 37 (D,F,S) Mrs J PR

3 -26F BAEGLA 7 (F,S,S) T Foster 10-11-4  
4 0128D DO DE BRERY 40 (F,S,S) Mrs J Perno -8-4  
5 P VPPD VANDER 20 (F,S,S) E Beckley 6-10-13-1  
6 35-0 CULDRYND 20 (F,S) Mrs M Hefner 10-13-1  
7 10-0 BEECHER 20 (F,S,S) P Hefner 10-13-1  
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12 -PFO DUMBOYD 70 (F,S,S) JCF 1 Foster 10-10-4  
13 3601 THE HEIGHT OF FUM 7 10-13-1 C Peckham 10-10-4  
14 2105 THATS THE BUSINESS 23 (F,S) S Bunkley 9-4  
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11-4 Flying Start, 7-2 Major's  
vynel, 1-1 Sticking Edge, 25-1

**COURSE**

TRAINERS: M Pigg, 52%  
Shewwood, 23 from 67, 24-  
18 from 67, 18.4%; P Hobbs  
from 47, 17.2%.

JOCKEYS: A Maguire, 14  
from 85, 20.0%; Dame Clara  
77, 16.5%; H Dumwoody, 3,  
14.7%.

**E SPECIALISTS**

winners from 135 runners, 38.5%: D  
P, 17, 4 Murphy, 8 from 22, 27.3%: T-Davis,  
17 from 40, 17.5%: W-Turner, 8

winners from 57 rides, 24.6%: J Osborne, 17  
4 from 21, 19.0%: P, Hobbs, 13 from  
from 231, 15.2%, G McCurt, 14 from 95,

**245**

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Saturday portrait: Mary Thomson, by Simon Barnes

## A sporting heroine who might make Jilly Cooper jealous

Last week Jilly Cooper commandeered most of the literary pages of the national press and most of the prime-time television audience of a bank holiday weekend: not a bad sort of win-double, that. She did so by exploiting the millennium-old belief that horses are irresistibly connected with wealth and privilege. And this sort of thing — the pornography of privilege — sells like anything.

Diamonds and champagne, darling, and naughty whips and spurs, too. This association of horses and privilege goes layers deep into the British racial unconsciousness. If wishes were horses, beggars would ride, we say. Chancer described the horses of his pilgrims with meticulous care, for by their horses we shall know them. Horses were as much a social statement as a car is now.

The equation of horses and privilege lingers on today as a kind of social fossil. Horses are not cheap, but nor are motor sports, or micro-lighting, or boating. Jilly Cooper is not about to write a book about stock-car racing.

Mary Thomson won Badminton last year, and is among the favourites this year. She was brought up in a rented cottage in a Devon village; her father was a vet. Neither her father nor her mother cared remotely for horses, either.

But Thomson had a sit on the vicar's pony when she was six, and that was that. Smitten. She took responsibility for her own destiny from then on.

An immensely deceptive person, Thomson. Oceans of calm flow from her, yet we met the day before Badminton started, one of the tensest four days of the eventing year. Extraordinary.

But Thomson is, in her quiet way, an extraordinary person. Calm, not rigidly controlled, but deep and genuine. And utterly resolute. There is not an ounce of aggression perceptible but, somehow, she gets her own way and achieves exactly what she aims to.

She is a slow-burn sort of person. She seems fairly ordinary at first impression: the fact that she is unusual, powerful and tough emerges with bewildering slowness. You might think her nice-

looking when you meet her; about an hour later you notice that she is stunning. Everything about her is deceptive.

She set about her horsey education with quiet determination, two words that sum up a great deal of her nature. She rode the vicar's pony. She rode any pony that she could get her hands on. Soon she was pedalling about Devon on her pushbike, borrowing ponies, exercising them, working, learning.

I assumed that the next stage of the story was about the over-riding of natural talent. Not a bit of it. "It took me a whole year to master the rising trot," she said. "A year to be able to go up and down." (As a matter of fact, it took me about 1½ hours, and I'm no genius.) Anybody else would have given up. Thomson did not.

I'm sort of a calm person. I'm not incredibly brave. I'm only as brave as my horse. Some riders are much braver than that.

When she was 13, seven years of relentless badgering at last paid off. Her parents bought her a pony, Bunter Boy: three hundred quidworth of untamed and untested horse. She begged local farmers for use of a field and a stable. Did all the work herself, naturally. And she and the pony learnt together, learnt to compete, learnt to win: above all, learnt to improve.

Horses like calm people around them. They like calm people in the daily tensions of schooling; they like calm people in the glare and excitement of competition. It is in this area that Thomson's greatest ability seems to show itself. Physical ability helps with horses; but eventing goes a good deal deeper than that.

Thomson insisted on leaving school at 16 to work with horses, against all scholastic advice. Her parents, who had lived with her through a decade of horsey resolution, saw there was no help for it. So Bunter Boy was sold, and Thomson spent 2½ years working

for a top eventer called Sheila Wilcox.

"I was under a lot of pressure there; it was a very tough time," she said. "But if I hadn't gone there, I wouldn't be where I am now. And anyway, I loved it."

After Wilcox, Thomson had a brief period, a kind of last fling, of life without horses. She did a cordon bleu course to please her parents and she worked in a ski resort. But this was not an attempt to evade her destiny, just a breather. She came back from this and announced to her parents that she was now going to be an eventer. With what?

All she had was a little money from the sale of Bunter Boy. She bought a horse. Her parents bought a rickety lorry to take the beast to competition. And Thomson organised a manifestly crazy life to pay for it all. She borrowed a disused farmyard, took in horses on livery and looked after them, taught people how to ride and to master the rising trot in 1½ hours, cooked cordon bleu meals, even did a butcher's round. She kept the show on the road. She was doing what she wanted, even if that did involve doing a lot of other things as well.

At the heart of the business was the fact that she bought good horses and improved them. She competed them well. "I'm lucky. I'm sort of a calm person," she said, calm and laid-back. "I'm not incredibly brave. I'm only as brave as my horse. Some riders are much braver than that: they will take a chance ride and gallop around a cross-country course. Not me. I love to ride horses I know very well, that I have produced from the beginning, and I know how they are going to react."

That willingness to trust a horse, that willingness to take the whole lot of it, that beyond the words barrier has always seemed to me one of the highest forms of sporting bravery.

The final step came with sponsorship. A tip-off got her an introduction to a potential sponsor. She had heard that the chairman's wife was daft about animals, so she included "a nice, twee picture of me with a goatee" in her portfolio. "How is your goatee?" was virtually the first



STEVE MARTIN

question she was asked. "My heart sank. Because you see we'd eaten him for Christmas." After a horrible pause, she confessed. Another horrible pause, and then a gust of laughter. And so Carphone decided to invest in an up-and-coming rider.

That brought her to Badminton, with a horse called Diver Rock. "He was a failed dressage horse. He'd got to the top level in showing as well, and qualified for Wembley. But in both things, he couldn't cope with the pressure. He got all hyperactive. His jump-

ing was dreadful, too. But there was something about him..."

Again, we find the Thomson calm: her railway laid-back nature. Diver Rock turned from neurotic to achiever. The pair of them finished Badminton in seventh place, and from then on Thomson knew she was at home at the highest level of her sport.

Since then, the Carphone chairman and his goose-loving wife have separated. But the former wife, Gill Robinson, continues to back Thomson, owns all her horses, and is utterly absorbed in

the eventing life without actually interfering with the way Thomson runs it. It is, in short, an ideal sporting relationship.

There is but a single barrier left for Thomson to clear. She has established herself as one of the best riders practising. All that remains is for her to set her stamp on a period as one of the great riders of all time. That means becoming a multiple Badminton winner, like Lucinda Green, Mark Phillips, Ginny Leng and Ian Stark.

It is within her reach, especially

as her top horse, King William, is 10, young by eventing standards. Her set-up, backed by Robinson, is designed for sustained, long-term success.

But the clinching factor is the Thomson temperament. In most other sports, so calm, so manifestly gentle a nature would be positively counter-productive. But eventing is about forging long-term relationships with horses — a very odd business indeed. And — since I was writing about privilege at the start of this — I would say that is the greatest privilege of all.

## Senna display overshadows rumour of Mansell return

Oliver Holt sees three times world champion put on a breathtaking show

IN THE languid heat of a lazy Barcelona afternoon heavy with paddock rumour, Ayrton Senna yesterday dragged attention back to action on the track with 12 breathtaking qualifying laps.

His performance was not quite enough to dislodge a rejuvenated Alain Prost from provisional pole position for tomorrow's race here in Barcelona. But it did relegate loosely-founded gossip concerning a return to Formula One from IndyCar racing by Nigel Mansell to its proper place by its audacity.

The Circuit de Catalunya, with its long pit straight and sweeping curves was expected to neutralise Senna's ability to push his McLaren-Ford close to Prost and Damon Hill, his closest pursuers in the drivers' championship, in their more powerful Williams-Renaults.

But yesterday the Brazilian — three times the world champion — who says his long-running contractual dispute with McLaren is nearing a successful conclusion, squeezed Hill into third place by less than two-tenths of a

second by driving beyond even his limits.

"I hung it out there much too much today," he said afterwards. "The track is full of very fast bends and I was going into them so quickly I did not know whether I had the grip or not to come out the other side. At the time, there is a tremendous fight going on inside you. One part is saying 'try it', but another is saying 'be careful'. You are exceeding all the limits you know, driving on the absolute maxi-

mum. I did it today but I hope I don't do it tomorrow."

But Senna, 33, insisted that despite his qualifying heroics his role in the race would be little more than that of an entertaining bit-part player.

"In the circumstances, we are competing in, I do not think it is worth the effort of pushing yourself beyond the limit," he said. "It is a great feeling when it comes off, but if you get it wrong, you realise you are risking your life. But my heart was speaking higher

than my reason. I am competing to try to get close to pole. Williams are so superior that if I get in front for a few laps it only serves to give the public a bit of a thrill until they come past me again."

One suspects, too, that Williams will make improvements over the weekend. Yesterday, Hill and Prost complained that changes to their cars' setups because of bumps in the track had adversely affected their times.

The morning practice, though, was overshadowed by speculation concerning the re-appearance of Mansell. Based on a sighting of the reigning world champion's adviser, Sheridan Thynne, emerging from a Knightsbridge restaurant with the Benetton managing director, Flavio Briatore, and the Formula One Constructors' Association president, Bernie Ecclestone, the suggestion was that Mansell would join Benetton before the Monaco grand prix later this month. Briatore said he was not even at the same table as Thynne.

### BARCELONA DETAILS

LEADING PRACTICE TIMES: 1. Prost (F1) 1:20.221; 2. Senna (B) 1:20.400; 3. Hill (B) 1:20.400; 4. M. Williams (B) 1:20.400; 5. R. Barrichello (B) 1:21.148; 6. M. Piquet (B) 1:21.148; 7. J. Herbert (B) 1:21.148; 8. J. Albers (F) 1:21.148; 9. J. Albers (F) 1:21.148; 10. J. Albers (F) 1:21.148; 11. J. Albers (F) 1:21.148; 12. J. Albers (F) 1:21.148; 13. J. Albers (F) 1:21.148; 14. J. Albers (F) 1:21.148; 15. J. Albers (F) 1:21.148.

DRIVERS' CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. A. Senna (B), 20pts; 2. Prost (B), 12; 3. Hill (B), 12; 4. S. Schumacher (B), 10; 5. M. Brundle (B), 10; 6. J. Herbert (B), 6; 7. L. Stirling-Morris (B), 5; 8. M. Brundle (B), 5; 9. G. Piquet (B), 5; 10. J. Albers (F), 5; 11. J. Albers (F), 5; 12. J. Albers (F), 5; 13. J. Albers (F), 5; 14. J. Albers (F), 5; 15. J. Albers (F), 5.

CONSTRUCTORS' CHAMPIONSHIP: 1. Williams-Renault, 30pts; 2. McLaren-Ford, 25; 3. Benetton-Ford, 12; 4. Ligier-Renault, 10; 5. Lotus-Ford, 7; 6. Tyrrell-Ford, 7; 7. Minardi-Ford, 5; 8. Larrousse-Lamborghini, 2; 9. Ferrari, 1.

## Lewis to help in defence of title

JIMMY Lewis, Havant's young goalkeeper, who is part of the England senior squad, will be a member of the South team that will be defending the junior divisional title at Old Loughborough Hockey Club, Chigwell this weekend (Sydney Frisken writes).

With the junior World Cup in Terrassa, Spain, only four months away, a number of players in line for England's under-21 selection will be taking part. These include Davis and Woods for the East, Gibbins and Sutton for the Midlands, Conway for the North, and Mason, who keeps goal for Firebrands, for the West.

South will be severely tested by both East and Midlands in pool A. Combined Services, North and West make up pool B.

## Houdini conjures up slender dressage lead

By Jenny MacArthur

VIRGINIA Leng, who is seeking a third Badminton win, had taken a slender lead on Winton Houdini at the end of one of the most competitive dressage phases in the event's 41-year-old history. The former world and European champion is separated by just 0.2 of a point from Tanya Cleverley, who produced a scintillating performance on her 13-year-old, Watkins.

Cleverley had the same narrow lead over New Zealand's dual Olympic champion, Mark Todd, on Just an Ace. His compatriot, Blyth Tait, the world champion, has moved into fifth place on Team Toggi's Riochet, just behind Thursday's overnight leader, Marie-Christine Dury, of France.

Less than ten points separate the top 22 riders as the competition for the Mitsubishi Motors Trophy enters today's speed and endurance phase, the focal point of the event. Despite her good mark, Leng's test was not the best she is capable of with the ten-year-old Houdini, owned by Clif-

bank. Houdini had been lit earlier in the day by the sight of the Beaufort Hounds being exercised in the park and his test, though soft and accurate, had moments of tension.

Leng is hoping Houdini's love of hunting will have a beneficial effect on her cross-country performance today. Leng has hunted him in Leicestershire regularly during the winter, which has helped to restore his confidence after his fall at Badminton last year. "Everyone was very kind and did their best not to crash into me," she said.

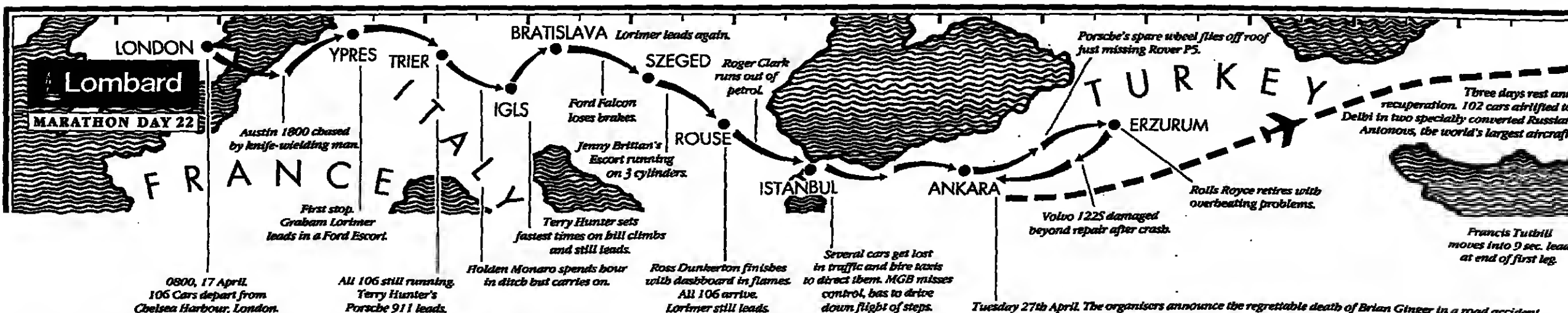
Though several riders have judged Hugh Thomas's 30-fence cross-country course as "easier than usual", Leng is too experienced a competitor to dismiss a Badminton course lightly. "It's a very clever course," she said. "Unless you walk it very carefully, you could miss some of the 'rider traps'."

Cleverley said: "It's big and asks lots of questions." Todd, who produced one of the most attractive tests of the day, is poised behind the British rid-

ers. He described the course as "a fair one, but no pushover". Tait, whose good mark yesterday was some compensation for the ungenerous score given to his first horse, Delta, has two contrasting rides today. Delta, the runner-up at Burghley, is "brave — almost overconfident". Riochet, aged 15, who will be retired after Badminton, was his reserve Olympic horse but is "a more cautious type".

One of the best tests from the younger riders yesterday came from Kristina Gifford, aged 22, on her second horse, Smithstown Lad. They followed Todd into the arena but more than held their own finishing in ninth place. Karen Dixon, a regular member of the British team and one of the favourites for Badminton, had a disappointing test on Get Smart and is lying in 43rd place.

RESULTS: 1. Walton Houdini, V Leng (GB), 43.0; 2. Watkins, T Cleverley (GB), 43.2; 3. Just an Ace, M Todd (NZ), 43.4; 4. Quest du Piquet, M-C Dury (F), 44.2; 5. Riochet, T Tait (NZ), 44.6; 6. Ballycotton, A Harris (GB), 45.2; 7. King William, M Thomson (GB), 46.0.



On Saturday April 17, 106 classic cars set off on the greatest motoring adventure for twenty five years. The Lombard London-Sydney Marathon.

Last held in 1968, it's one of the world's most arduous tests of endurance and reliability for both cars and drivers. As the UK's largest finance house with a major involvement in the motor trade,

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1 TALES FROM MARGARET THATCHER'S INNER CIRCLE BY RONALD MILLAR

# The bouffant explodes

For her last TV broadcast of the 1983 campaign, Mrs Thatcher's mood was all wrong. Who could tell her?

Come the 1983 election, I had been working for Mrs Thatcher for more than eight years, and we had become close friends. But in the political forest no relationship is roses all the way...

The last big rally a few days before polling day was the Conservative youth-cum-showbiz gathering at Wembley. I saw it on television while waiting to record her final broadcast of the campaign in a secret makeshift studio in the West End. I was taken aback. The showbiz element was overdoing the hysteria, and Margaret's exploding bouffant was over the top in more senses than one. I said to her favourite hair-and-makeup girl, "You see that hairdo. Do get her out of it as soon as she arrives." The girl said, "I can't, it's lacquered. I'd have to wash it." "Then wash it. Love, for goodness' sake!"

"There won't be time for it to dry and set." This was ominous. Women's hair, like their clothes, can be soft and soothing or striking and provocative, the image signalling the inner mood. There was no doubt which mood Wembley was signalling. When Margaret arrived with Ian Gow at the largely unfurnished building, hired by Tim Bell of Saatchi's, in Maddox Street off Regent Street to record the broadcast, my worst fears were confirmed. She was on the wrong sort of high, the adrenalin pumping furiously. The hysterical Wembley hoop-de-do, not her style at all, had roused her fighting spirit to an alarming level, her hair made her look formidable rather than appealing, her dress was a harsh blue, and she was making waves of a distinctly combative nature.

"Now then," she said briskly, sitting down opposite me to tea and cakes with Ian, Tim and Gordon Reece. "The final political. What have you got? What's it about?" Her tone was militant, aggressive.

"Actually, it's not so much about specific political items," I said, doing my damndest to soothe like a dove. "It's more of a mood piece."

"Ha!" she said, thumping her handbag and turning to Gow sarcastically. "What did I tell you? Ronnie will want me to do a mood piece. I said."

"That's right," I murmured in my Owl-to-Eyore voice,

which was probably a mistake. She picked up intonations fast. "Well, go on, then," she said, for once not shading her eyes but glaring at me. "Let's have it." At this moment a Salvation Army band appeared at the top of Maddox Street, blasting flat out as it marched along Regent Street, summoning the goddess to deliverance. I waited. Mrs Thatcher, though devout, looked for a moment positively pagan. In this atmosphere I thought, "never in the field of human conflict" would have fallen flat.

Finally, I read what I had written and waited for the demolition job to begin. I was not disappointed.

"No! No! No!!!" she flew at me. "The end's not all that bad, and there are a couple of paragraphs at the beginning, but as for the rest — I want facts, not moods. Facts, facts, facts!" The words poured out of her. "Facts about housing, facts about the economy, facts about the NHS — more nurses, more doctors, more dentists! More of everything! That's what we've given the country, and we're entitled to remind people and ask for their support."

"But, Margaret," I pleaded, "we've been reminding them for the past three weeks. They're up to their ears in facts. Don't you feel one can have too much of a good thing?"

"No, I don't," she said curtly. "We have an excellent record, let's spell it out. I don't know what you're after."

"A little warmth, perhaps? A little night music?"

"Night music? Night music? This is the final party political before a general election, and you want me to give them night music?"

"I was speaking figuratively."

"Listen, we're heading for

## NEXT WEEK

- Tough but tender
- Midnight oil and speeches
- Mrs Thatcher and the BBC

the finishing-post. We want people cheering and shouting 'Maggie, Maggie, Maggie!' My word, you should have heard them at Wembley."

"I did."

"Well, there you are, then."

"I thought it was vulgar."

"You what?"

"I'm afraid I didn't like it at all. That comedian shouting 'Left, bomb, Russia! You shouldn't be associated with that sort of thing.'"

"For heaven's sake, it was a joke!"

"In very poor taste."

"Well, really!"

Fortunately, at that moment the make-up girl appeared.

"I'm coming, dear."

She turned to me. "I'm sorry but it won't do," and then to Gow, "Ronnie's gone wobbly, you'd better find a rewrite man," and she disappeared into the make-up room.

I realised I had gone over the top but — more dentists? Hell's teeth, what was she after, the masochist vote?

I can cast about for a non-wobbly wordsmith and eventually came up with Brian Walden. After three weeks covering and writing about the election, Walden had been on the town, celebrating with profound relief that the damn thing was just about over before returning home and falling into a deep sleep from which he had been woken with difficulty.

When he finally arrived around midnight, he looked wobblier than anyone. Strong black coffee was poured down him, and eventually a sort of mishmash central section of the broadcast was devised by the two of us.

Meanwhile the make-up girl had done a brilliant job on the PM's hair in record time, shading the flaming cheeks with a delicate pink blush and substituting a soft grey dress for the turbulent blue.

The effect on the lady's temperament was immediate. All aggression gone, she emerged gracious and emollient and immediately agreed to record both versions, the original and the mishmash.

The mishmash was broadcast. A few days later, Tim Bell ran a video of both for that fine actor and my good friend Anthony Quayle, who had seen neither, without telling Tony which was which. Without hesitation he instantly chose the original.



Screen test: Ronald Millar (right) briefing Margaret Thatcher before her final television broadcast in the historic 1979 election campaign

## Election order: get your hair cut

One afternoon in the middle of a speech-writing session in the study at Number Ten, Cecil Parkinson, who was again standing for his Hertsmere constituency, telephoned and asked for the prime minister. "Oh dear," she muttered. "Is it urgent?" Apparently it was. He was put through.

After saying that the Conservative party was the smart party — he meant in dress rather than intellect though no doubt both were implied — he complained that certain Tory ministers on the stump and on television were letting the side down by looking either thoroughly scruffy or too ornate.

When she asked him to be specific he named the Chancellor of the Exchequer, Nigel Lawson, who, he said, badly needed a haircut, and Kenneth Clarke, whose dashing yellow waistcoat, said Cecil, appearing in colour on the nation's television screens, struck a note of levity that was inappropriate at this grave moment in our island story.

"Right... yes... right," sighed the lady, taking notes, and eventually hung up with a certain impatience.

"Well, really," she muttered, "I hardly think hair and coloured



Nigel Lawson (left) had his hair cut at the urging of Cecil Parkinson



waistcoats will mean the difference between victory and defeat. However...," and she went to her desk, picked up the phone and asked for the Chancellor.

As he was only next door at Number 11, which, like Number 12, has a corridor connecting with Number Ten, it seemed to me that he might be requested to pop in for a moment and an entertaining little diversion on "hairstyles: how to win a third term" could be enjoyed by all.

When he came on the line, he was requested to see a barber at his earliest convenience. There was some confusion while it was established that no, she did not want him to see A for Anthony Barber (Ted's Chancellor) and that no, what she wanted cut was not the fiscal deficit or the health service but his hair.

He evidently agreed to a trim at least, because she said, "I would be grateful" and rang off. "Well, that's all right, then," she sighed. (Ah, but

on a point of order, Madam Speaker, was it? Or was the memory of that trichological indignity stored up in the Chancellor's subconscious, one day to surface unforgetting and to play a crucial part in his dramatic resignation? We shall never know.)

She next telephoned David Young (Secretary of State at the Department of Trade and Industry) and asked him if he would be kind enough to speak to Ken Clarke about his waistcoat. (Clarke was Young's number two at the DTL.)

Clearly, at such moments, to be Young was not very heaven because he declined the assignment, presumably on the grounds that this was a matter of such delicacy and national importance that only prime ministers could handle it.

Who finally got the job I don't know, but the waistcoat duly vanished from the nation's screens. Which I thought was a pity. Anything that lightens our political darkness is to be welcomed. Indeed, catching the mood of the moment, I felt a powerful urge to suggest that she had a word with Ted Heath, who at that time favoured the fuller fashion in hair, and warn him Old Bexley might go Labour if he did not do something about his locks.

YARDLEY ORIGINAL A HEALTHY DOSE OF ORIGINALITY.

THOUGHT PROVOKING.



## What a PM needs

**WILLIE'S WAY:** In the musical *Camelot* there is a song in which King Arthur, who is baying wife trouble with Guinevere, his queen, meditates musically on "How to handle a woman". He comes to the conclusion that the answer is "to love her, simply love her, love her, love her".

The acknowledged expert at handling Mrs Thatcher was her deputy, Willie Whitelaw. Whether he followed Arthurian practice and simply loved her, loved her, loved her, I am unable to say, but it was Willie (as he was to everyone), a large man in every sense, who came closest to solving the problem. I would guess that a somewhat subtler approach was brought into play the more she tried to behave like a man, the more he treated her like a woman. Willie's great strength was his loyalty, which enabled him to say things to her that others could not, not by virtue of his seniority, though that helped, but by a special kind of gallantry, the knightly suit of armour that he threw round her whenever she was under fierce attack.

One day at Blackpool, during a speechwriting session, Margaret said: "Every prime minister should have a Willie." I have never been entirely sure whether this was a Rabelaisian sally or a slip of the tongue. I think the latter has the edge because, when the explosive burst of laughter that greeted this observation subsided, she frowned and said sternly to her word-



Best friends: Willie Whitelaw was the acknowledged expert at handling Margaret

smiths. "Everything that's said in this room is confidential. You realise that." "Oh, absolutely. Rather. No question," we chorused, crossing our fingers. I think she knew it would go the rounds, as of course it did. We owed it to Willie as well as to history, and when it was leaked to him (not by one of us, as it happened), he roared his delight until he wept.

**ROMEO Y JULIETA:** After every party conference speech, a gift would arrive from Number Ten — usually a box of cigars. Only once was there a variation of this annual gift. After the Brighton bomb anything celebratory would have been inappropriate. The lady's sense of the fitness of things was as usual impeccable, and a few days later a dark grey pullover arrived instead.

**A STRAW IN THE WIND:** Another Chequers lunch celebrated Margaret Thatcher's tenth anniversary in office. She did not care for anniversaries. Trumpeting one's success, she felt, was tempting fate, but other people liked

them so she went along. On this occasion there were party grandees, members of previous cabinets and one or two from the current one. John Major, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, and by no means the most senior politician present, was the only minister who hosted a table. It was suddenly clear to me that this was a signal: here was her chosen successor, and she was presenting him as such for the first time.

**A SMALL CELEBRATION:** She has learnt on the grapevine that Stephen Sherbourne and Colette Bowe are organising a small dinner party for my birthday with a few close friends who have been a part of my political life for many years. At once she says that she and Denis would like to drop in for a pre-dinner drink. I am not supposed to know about this but I get to know and am touched and flattered.

The dinner is to take place in a small hotel off Sloane Street and the Thatchers arrive exactly on time. DT: "When The Boss said, 'It's just a pre-dinner drink', I

said to her, 'What, only one?'"

There is more than one and they do not just drop in: they stay well beyond the statutory minimum, chatting away and obviously enjoying themselves as we enjoy their taking the trouble to be there.

They present me with a silver salver, inscribed "Ronnie — on your 70th birthday from Denis and Margaret". This unexpected and much treasured gift is typical of their thoughtfulness and generosity.

Eventually the PM looks at her watch and says to Denis, "We must go", but he takes no notice. She has to say it several times. Finally she rises from the sofa and in a commanding tone says, "If you want me to poach your eggs, come now!"

He sighs and turns to me. "Good luck, my old. Boss says I've got to go and eat some bloody egg or something. Have a lovely life. I have." Lovely man.

© Sir Ronald Millar, 1993

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Club man: "Have a lovely life," Denis Thatcher said



# Love is in the air, artificially inseminated or otherwise

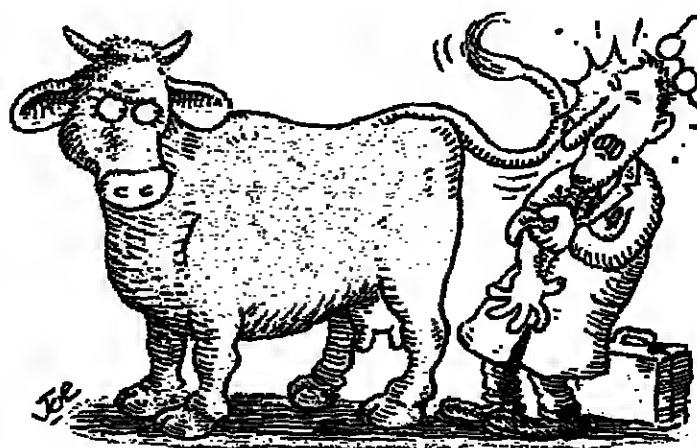
FARMER'S DIARY: PAUL HEINEY

No sooner had the news come through than I felt that I had to dash round the farm spreading the good tidings. I scampered across the dewy meadows to the highest point on the farm and, like Moses on Mount Sinai, proclaimed in my deepest and loudest voice. "Great news everybody. The recession is over! It's official." Alas, the livestock were hardly moved. I shouted it again to make sure they had heard. "Hey, everybody! The good times are coming." There was no response. I could see, written across their faces, that they had far more important matters on their mind.

Alice, the fecund Large Black sow, who has been served under two prime ministers, hardly felt it worth rising to her feet. Anyway, I suspect that going through her mind is the thought that more money in people's pockets means more to spend on the good things



in life, and that inevitably leads to a longer queue at the farm shop for our special bacon. But I cannot blame her for being distracted, for her old beau Cyril, the Large White boar, has arrived with a view to producing another litter of Dalmatian-like piglets. Since he was last here he has grown even larger, and if he and Alice attempted the sty door at the same time, we would have the nearest this farm ever gets to gridlock. They sleep side by side looking like a sack of nutty slack and Bernard Manning in fond embrace. Unable to make any impression, I took the news to the carthorses, who have now been liberated from their winter quarters and are enjoying the freedom of the meadows.



Empress, the heifer, jumped a foot in the air, nuzzled Prudence and then, with one bound, playfully leaped on to her in order to share the tidings of great joy. Thankful that my message had at least been

ly mounting Prudence, who was not minding in the least. I guessed what was going on and it was certainly nothing to do with the news I had brought. "Pro-dence!" I shouted, giving her name the full French inflection as has become my habit since, unwillingly, watching an episode of *A Year in Provence*. "You bitch. You are not in calf after all!" I should explain that 21 days ago, Prudence was artificially inseminated and if she had "taken" she would not now be showing playful signs of coming on heat. You might think that AI is one of those modern farming practices which I shun; but I have decided that a quick visit from a man with a rubber glove and a test tube is better for the cow than a 100-mile trip in a lorry with her calves, even if there is a hunky bull at the end of it. We phoned the AI man. Dutifully, he once again carried out his fertile little task. We must now watch the

cow carefully to see that she shows no amorous symptoms in another 21 days' time; otherwise the man will be back to exercise his rubbered arm and, if this should continue, I foresee him publishing a memoir — *A Year in Prudence*. With the excitement over, I am now carefully watching Sage, the white cow, for she too has fallen for the AI man's charms. But she has that deceptive look that tells me she may be up to one of her tricks and be due for a passionate outburst of her own in a couple of weeks' time. She is a tease. Meanwhile, over in the orchard, Alice and Cyril are making the most of their arranged marriage. Where only a couple of days ago I heard grunts of discontent, I am beginning to hear squeals of delight. Very loud and not unembarrassing ones. Love is in the air. Good times are just around the corner.

## Full sail ahead into the wind

Enthusiasts have saved windmills all over the country, as Kay Marles reports

Windmills move in cumbersome and creaky ways, but what they lack in technology they make up for in romantic associations. Bradford Old Windmill in Wiltshire, which is today a small guesthouse, was the dream of the town's baker, who built it in 1806 but could not keep it going profitably beyond 1817. And Sussex legend has it that the Jill windmill in Clayton was dragged 12 miles from Brighton in 1852 by the local baker and a team of oxen, to make a pair with Jack, his existing mill. In reality it was probably dismantled and reassembled, piece by piece, on its new site in the South Downs.

Many decaying windmills are now championed by people who live near them. Thanks to this Quixotic titling for windmills, several are open to the public, some even restored to working order. Sunday is usually the day when the sails turn and the millstones grind the grain to wholemeal flour.

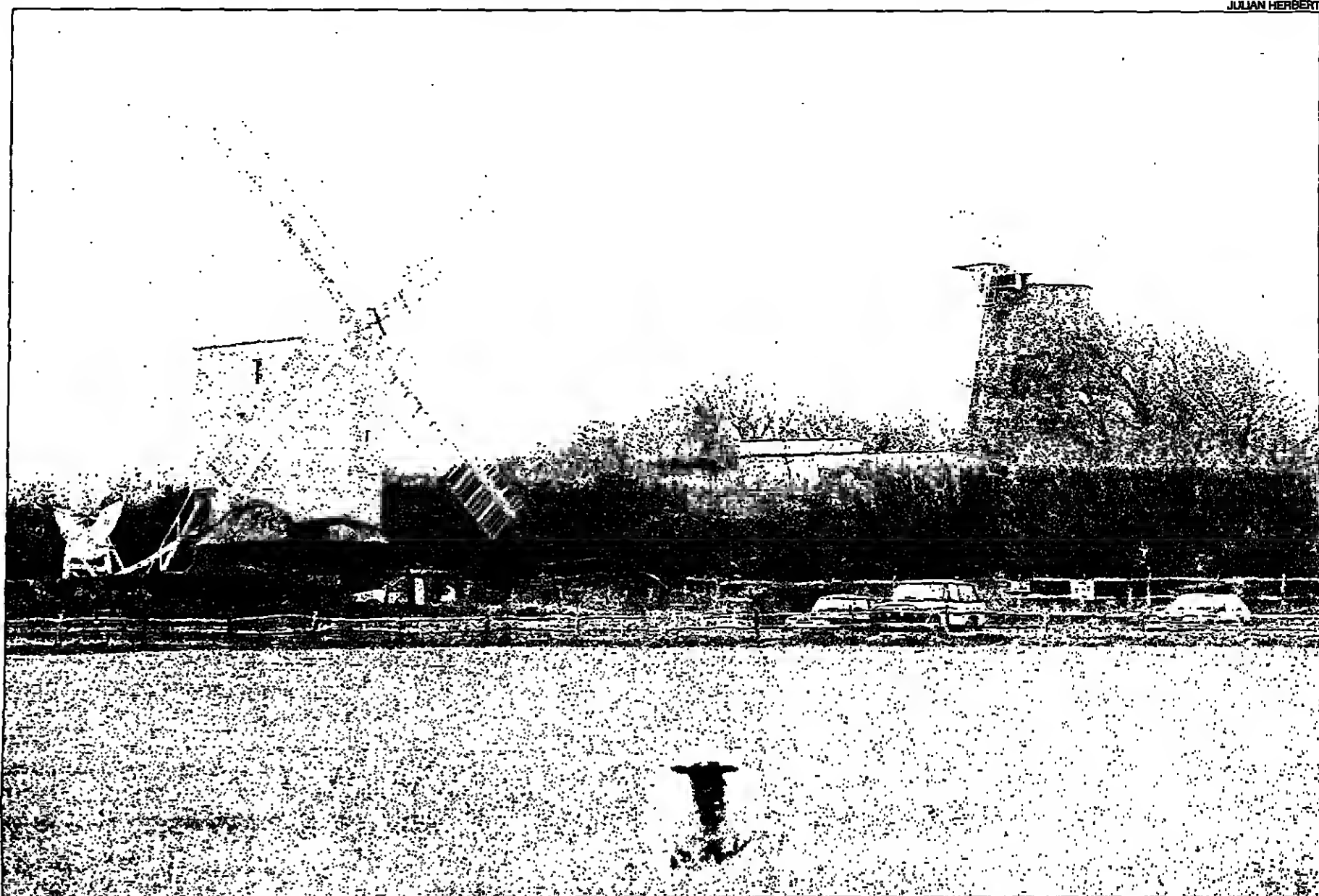
But turning sails do not always grind corn. In East Anglia in particular, windpumps were used to drain water from the marshes — their sails, often covered in cloth, powered a scoop wheel at the bottom of the structure.

Norfolk is the best haunt of the windmill-lover. The remains of about 70 windpumps and more than 120 windmills are administered by three bodies: the Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust, the National Trust and English Heritage. In various states of repair, many of them are listed. Those in search of

wind pumps concentrate on the Broads, particularly at Stracey Arms, St Olaves and Thurne Dyke. As the mechanics of translating the wind's power were refined, so the designs of windmills evolved. The oldest remaining style, and often the most picturesque, is the post mill. These were built of wooden slats around a massive upright post — the whole structure could turn 360 degrees so as to keep the sails in the wind.

More common tower mills are built of solid brick, and the sails are attached to a cap on top. The cap is the only part of the structure which moves, guiding the sails into the wind with the help of a fantail. Caps take a variety of forms: boat shaped, onion shaped or domed. Windmills need at least three floors — one for the material to be ground, one for the stones, and one for the meal — but some were built with many more. At seven storeys, the Berney Arms windmill near Great Yarmouth is the tallest in Norfolk. Built to grind oment clinker, it was later converted to a drainage mill. Many corn mills were built in the mid 19th century and lasted for 100 years or more. Like the church spire of a village, they stood out as a distinguishing landmark and would have been a busy centre of activity.

On the north Norfolk coast the former Clay windmill, with a red brick tower and restored sails, is now a guesthouse and open to the public. It has two circular rooms, a barley bin and miller's room and, on the top floors, observation and information rooms. The Sibsey



Turning again: a Brighton headmaster set up a preservation society to rescue the romantically linked Jack (right) and Jill (left) windmills at Clayton, West Sussex

Trader windmill in Lincolnshire has six sails, and visitors can scale wooden ladders to its six floors.

The Wilton windmill near Marlborough in Wiltshire was bought by the county council and leased to the Wilshire Historic Buildings Trust after extensive local lobbying. It was restored in 1976 at a cost of £25,000 raised by public appeal, and is started up every Sunday afternoon in summer by volunteers.

A Brighton headmaster spearheaded the campaign and formed a preservation society for the restoration of the Jack and Jill windmills in Sussex. The Jack windmill, a tower mill, passed into private hands in a previous landowner's will, but the society has spent £40,000 renovating the wooden Jill post mill and returning it to working order.

The late 20th century has con-

tributed its own variation on the windmill form. Three windfarms have been erected, two in Cornwall and one in Wales, as part of the drive to use renewable energy. The dozens of tall, spindly towers with three spokes contribute directly to the national grid.

A new farm is being constructed in Powys with 130 such turbines. It will be the largest of its kind in Europe, and though it cannot be

said to have the aesthetic appeal of its forebears, it pays tribute to their simple, clean and effective technology.

For leaflets, brochures and opening times, contact your local tourist information office. English Heritage administers the Berney Arms windmill, the Sadeed Green Post Mill in Suffolk and the Sibsey Trader Mill in Lincolnshire; contact the Cambridgeshire Area Office at 24 Brooklands Avenue, Cambridge CB2 2UB (0223 455535). The

Norfolk Mills and Pumps Trust administers Stracey Arms, St Olaves and Thurne Dyke; County Hall, Norwich NR1 2DH (0603 222706). Wilton Windmill Society (0672 870427). Jack and Jill Windmills Society, 243 Chancerybury Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex RH15 9HQ. Bradford Old Windmill, 4 Masons Lane, Bradford on Avon, Wiltshire BA15 1QN (0225 866842). Clay Mill, Clay-Nea-The-Sea, Holt, Norfolk NR25 7NN (0263 740209).

### Feather report

## Saharan dandy shakes his tail



### Gardens to visit

● Hampshire: The Manor House, Upton Grey (six miles southeast of Basingstoke, next to the church in Upton Grey). A beautifully-restored small Jacobean garden planned meticulously to the original plans of 1608-1910, with a rare informal wild garden (see page 71). Plants for sale. Open Wednesdays, 2-5pm, until end July. £1.50, child free.

● East Sussex: Pashley Manor, Ticehurst (on the B2099 between A21 and Ticehurst). Victorian garden, beautifully

renovated by the owners in collaboration with Anthony du Gard Pashley, a Jelkyl expert. An exhibition of early Jelkyl drawings and paintings from May 18-June 10 will cost £1 extra, child 50p. Plants for sale. Open Saturdays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays (and bank holidays), 11am-5pm. £2.50, child £2.

● Oxfordshire: Greystone, Colmore Lane, Kingswood Common, Henley-on-Thames (between B481 Nettleden to Reading road, and the Sonning Common to Stoke Row road; turn north at the Unicorn). Garden in woodland setting with unusual shrubs and bushes, geraniums, fritillaries and ferns; woodland walk, pear tree walk, ponds, Mediterranean garden. Plants for sale. £1, child free. Tomorrow, 2-6pm.

FRANCESCA GREENOAK

A flaming spirit is back in the woods: it is called the common redstart. You will find it especially in airy woods and parkland, because it flies about a lot and needs plenty of space. It has a bright red tail, and as it flies it seems like a swooping light in the shadows beneath the trees. When it perches, its tail constantly quivers and trembles.

Altogether it is a beautiful bird. It is the size of a large robin, and the male has a red breast, a black face-mask topped with white and a pearl-grey back. The female is browner but also has the restless orange-red tail.

The species is not as widespread as it used to be. Like the whitethroat, its numbers have suffered from drought in the southern Sahara, where it winters. But especially in the west of England, there are many redstarts singing and calling in the oak woods now. The song is short and rather clockwork-like, somehow suitable for such a brisk bird. You are more likely to detect it by its frequent calls, a sharp note followed by angry ticking.

It nests in holes in old trees, and this is when its colours are employed to greatest effect. The male courts the female by showing nest-holes to her: he peers out of the entrance, displaying the white band on his forehead, or else goes into the hole, pausing to vibrate his red tail behind him. At other times he will swoop conspicuously down to the hole from a nearby branch.

His flashing colours are also seen as he flies up to the female in courtship, or when he chases other males away, twisting and turning through the trees. Few birds animate the woodland so vigorously. The other late summer visi-

tors have also been arriving during the last week or two. Another bird that lives in the shade beneath the trees is the spotted flycatcher. But this is a sober-plumaged bird, inconspicuous until it darts out after an insect. Then you realise it had been sitting all the time on a low bough of the yew tree.

Looked at closely, you see that it actually has rather fine,



Restless spirit: the redstart needs plenty of space

streaky-brown plumage, with silvery-grey underparts, and also an interesting, hunched, alert look about it. Most often it flies up to take an insect with a snap of its beak, then returns to its lookout post. But if a fly dodges it, it will pursue it determinedly, wheeling and twisting as if on hairpin beads.

It likes to nest in wisteria on the side of a house, and when its young fledge, the garden is suddenly full of activity, as well as a great deal of noise from the anxious parents, who have two alarm cries. Churchyards are a favourite haunt, and I

have sometimes seen a whole family of them all sitting on different tombstones, the parents hunting and the young crying out to be fed.

Also just arriving are the lesser whitethroats. This is a mysterious bird, not often observed though constantly heard. Its main song is generally described as a loud rattle, although I think it is really

has a gleaming white throat, but is greyer than the common whitethroat and also has a dark patch over each ear.

When the common whitethroat was seriously down in numbers about 20 years ago after the southern Saharan drought, the lesser whitethroat was probably, for a time, the more abundant species, though the common whitethroat has now overtaken it again. The lesser whitethroat is unusual among summer visitors because it flies south-east, not south, in autumn, and winters in Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean.

Furring in the hedges, screaming in the skies — here are two more sounds that tell you summer birds are back. The purring birds are turtle doves. "Purr-purr", they go, "burr-burr", like a soft-sounding telephone. They have splendid mottled-orange backs and fly off across the fields with an odd, flicking action of the wings.

As for the screams, they are blood-curdling but nothing to worry about. You hear them coming rapidly towards you, then a party of swallows explodes into sight and whirs over the roofs. Their long, narrow wings flicker into the distance and they vanish. But a few minutes later they are rushing past again. Forget the music of the countryside: this urban din is the surest sign that we are on the verge of summer.

### DERWENT MAY

● What's about: Birds — watch for swallows flying through the sky with sooty-like wings. Twitchees — purple heron, Brantswater, Norfolk; swallows at Portland Bill, Dorset. Details from Birdline, 0898 700222. Calls cost 36p per minute cheap rate, 48p per minute at all other times.

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# Servers who only stand and wait

Robin Young describes the technical and 'interpersonal' skills needed to keep even the most fastidious diner satisfied

Last week I was a judge at the Young Waiter of the Year competition finals. The experience was a rather harrowing one for me (mine was the table that felt obliged to send its undercooked saddle of lamb back to the kitchen), but worth it for competitor David James, from the Dorchester Hotel, who had struggled to carve the lamb as prettily as possible, and had to bear the bad news back to the chef.

The competition, like all too many restaurant managements perhaps, asked the impossible of the waiters. Mr James had to cope with unfamiliar surroundings and shortages of crockery, cutlery and glassware, not to mention his volubly troublesome customers.

He had to suggest a choice of wines, describe the ingredients and methods of preparation of the dishes, keep wine and water topped up, present bread rolls by picking them up between a spoon and a fork with one hand, and attempt to make pretty pictures on oversized plates with difficult pigments such as stringy parsnip confit.

We, the judges, were asked to comment upon not only his dexterity and ability to carry plates without dripping sauce or dropping knives and forks, but also upon his "interpersonal skills".

John Cousins, head of Thames Valley University's school of hospitality studies and chairman of the judges, said that most competitors this year had formal qualifications acquired after two to four years training on full or part-time diploma courses in which interpersonal skills (like handling complaints) take their place alongside product knowledge, technical skill (how to keep thumbs out of the soup, etc) and teamwork.

What does one want from a waiter or waitress? It varies, of course, from place to place. In an informal bistro, insouciant charm will make up for surprising amounts of amateurism, even extending to forgetfulness ("Oh, didn't I bring your vegetables, you could almost have grown them yourself by now, couldn't you?") and clumsiness ("I crossed knives, unlucky for some, I think I'm going to be sacked").

In great and reverential dining rooms a dropped fork or shattered glass, part of the merry clatter of everyday life in a bustling brasserie, will ring out like the clang of doom. But, wherever one eats, there are certain essentials that must be

observed. The first is that waiting staff should not drop anything on their customers. I have been saucily bespattered in some of London's leading hotels, and even in one Michelin three-star restaurant in Paris. It is a sin one never forgives, no matter how profuse the apologies or effective the sponging down afterwards.

The second is that there should not be undue fuss. I do not begrudge waiters their moment of cloche-raising drama if that is the style of the house, but I do resent any flow of constant interruptions: "More bread?... will you take butter?... water, sir?... is everything to your satisfaction?..." Then again, I would rather be asked if I want lemon and ice in my table water rather than have both dumped there unrequested.

Worse still, of course, is brusque or rude interruption. On occasions in French restaurants I have been amazed at the contortions some waiters will go through to ensure that they can serve guests from the correct side. In others, though, I have been appalled by the suddenness with which a black-sleeved arm has shot across my face just as I was lifting a forkful of fodder mouthwards.

"Interpersonal skills" should obviously imply as complete an inter-diction as possible

on phrases such as "there you go", "how's that for you then?", and especially "have you finished?" when the plate is plainly empty. The cardinal offences, though, are resentfulness and arrogance. Waiters who do not enjoy helping other people, who have a chip on their shoulder about supposed subservience, or who think customers are clods who deserve no better than they get, belong in the drole queue.

Recently I attended the finals of another competition, Young Wine Waiter of the Year. I went with a strict instruction from my wife: if a certain finalist won, I was to cry in the loud voice of a furious back-bencher, "Object! Object!" The reason? In his dining room, she had recently lunched with another lady. Their order, wine for one, water for the other, was taken by the young wine waiter without looking at them, while attending over his shoulder to something else. When he brought the drinks, he served them, again without a glance, let alone a smile, each to the wrong woman, and left. Happily for me he did not actually win — although he was placed.



Who ordered the sole? "It is probably unreasonable to expect that waiters will devise any method for remembering who ordered what"

In most British restaurants long experience has taught me that it is probably unreasonable to expect that waiters and waitresses will devise any method for remembering who ordered what, even if they took the order themselves only moments before. Isn't it funny too, though, how often it happens that when the waiter asks: "Who ordered the sole?" the guests themselves cannot remember either? It

presumably reflects the fact that, as a nation, we can still muster no more than a passing interest in food.

Waiters and waitresses should play their part repairing that deficiency. They are, in a very real sense, the salesmen and women for the restaurant trade. That does not mean they should be sneaking baskets of bread and nibbles on to the table as if they were free, when,

in fact, they attract a charge, nor that they should be keeping wine glasses topped up to the brim in the hope of selling another bottle.

It does mean that they should make restaurant visits memorable and pleasurable, and an experience that the customers will quickly want to repeat. I am sure that on his home ground, at the Dorchester, Mr James does that very well. The Young Waiter of the Year, though,

was, in the judges' final decision, his rival, Sion Farry from the Ritz. Congratulations to all the finalists and competitors, and to the Restaurateurs' Association of Great Britain and their sponsor, American Express, whose organisation of the contest recognises that waiting at table is both an honourable profession and a highly skilled one. Would that all managements and all waiting staff felt the same.

## RESTAURANT WATCH

Light Sunday suppers, local talent and a cowshed

**SUNDAY OPENING**  
**The Greenhouse**  
27a Hay's Mews, Mayfair, London W1 (071-499 3331)  
Tomorrow night Gary Rhodes introduces Sunday suppers (6-10pm) at The Greenhouse, with a special menu of light dishes including curry, shepherd's pie, goulash and out-of-time ploughman's lunches and English breakfasts. *Robin Young writes.* Main courses start from £5 and draught beer is available in addition to wine. Sunday set lunches continue (12.30-3pm, £17.50). Weekday opening hours are 12-2.30pm and 7-11pm. Reckon on £30 to £45 a head for a la carte.

**TESTER TASTER**  
**The Droveaway**  
30a Southgate, Chichester, West Sussex (0243-528832)  
Jonas and Ely Tester have relaunched and renamed their restaurant, Thompsons, dropping the name inherited from a former proprietor, introducing a no-smoking room, and starting Sunday lunches. Jonas, who used to cook in Paris, has also recruited local talent to reinforce his daily changing set lunch menu through a competition: granny Clara Smith's victorious rice pudding takes its bow this week. Open Tuesday to Sunday 12.30-2pm and Tuesday to Saturday 7-10pm (after-theatre and concert bookings also accepted). Lunch £1.50 for two courses, £14 for three; £15 on Sundays. Reckon about £50 for two a la carte with wine.

**MAN OF HARLECH**  
**Llew Glas**  
Llanbedr, Harlech, Gwynedd (0341 23555)  
Trevor and Marjorie Pharoah have revived their popular Harlech brasserie in more manageable and accessible premises outside town, a converted barn once known as "the Cowshed". Llew Glas, though, means "blue lion". The a la carte menu includes dishes, all indicated by codes, for vegetarians, vegans, gluten avoiders, and portions for children (smaller servings of adult dishes, not fish fingers and chips). Dinners only, until Whit Sun Thursday to Sunday 7-10pm, and from Whit Sun seven days a week, 5.30-10pm, children's menus till 7.30pm.

## Goodies to make a gourmet truckle

Sarah Woodward fills her basket at the Pannier market in Tavistock, where local produce is the stuff of dreams

There has been a market in the pretty Devon town of Tavistock, on the edge of Dartmoor, since the original charter was granted in 1105 to the monks of the Abbey of Our Lady and St Rumen. In the mid-19th century, the Duke of Bedford made a gift to the town of the building in which the market is still held today, a big barn of a place just off Bedford Square.

Called "Pannier", after the wicker baskets in which local people brought their produce from the surrounding farms and smallholdings, the Friday market was originally dedicated to food, including livestock.

The market tariffs for 1859 state that the charge to traders for a pannier of sucking pigs was a penny ha'penny, and thruppence for a carload.

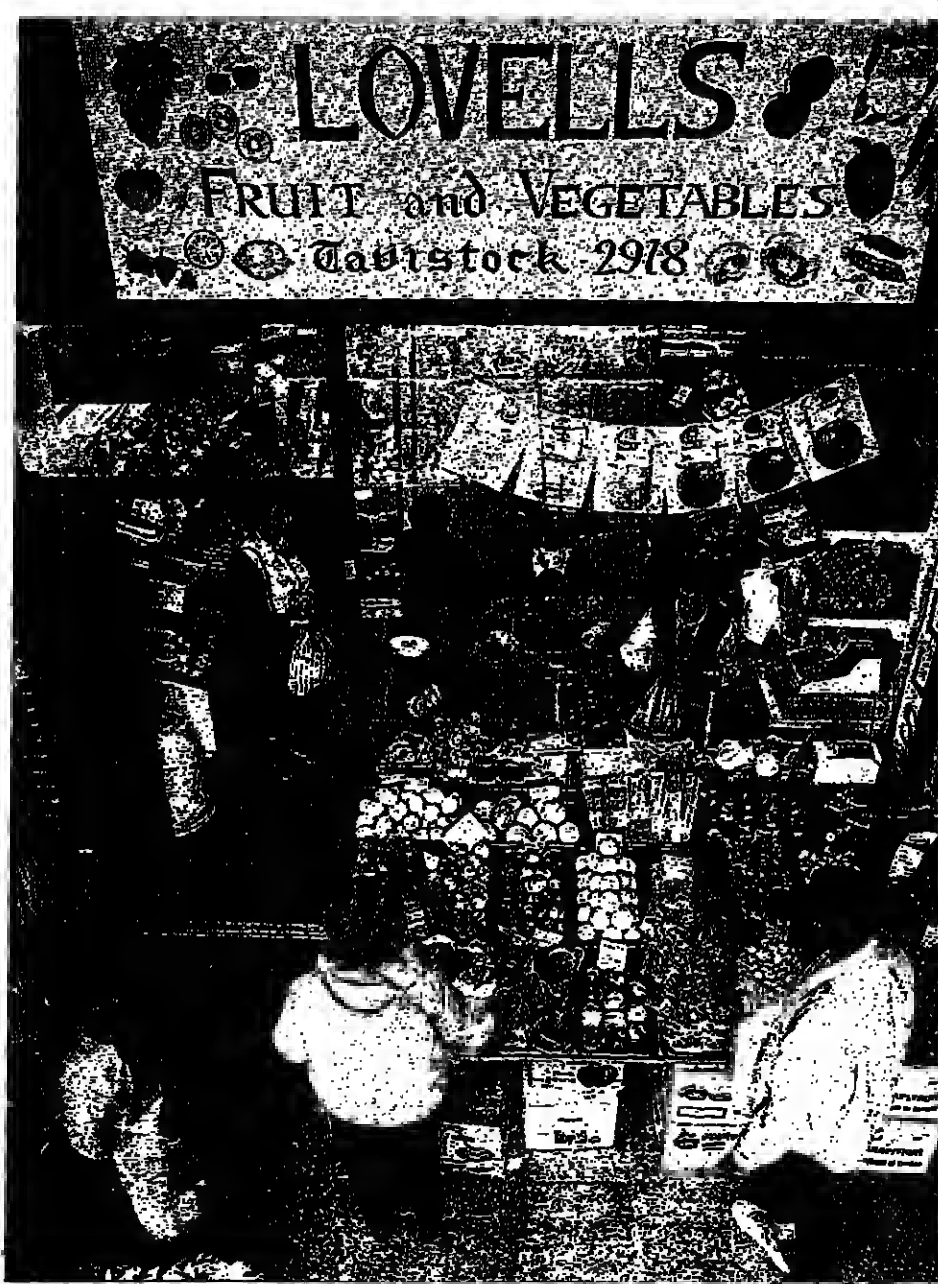
Today, food stalls make up only a small element of the Friday market. What they lack in number, they compensate for in quality. You may not find sucking pigs, but you can buy home-made hog's pudding. In fact, there is everything you might need for the table, almost all of it locally produced. Big brown farm eggs for breakfast, with perhaps a jar of Devon honey spread on freshly-baked bread; for lunch, fish from Plymouth that positively

gleams with health; thick butter, yellow dotted cream and home-made scones for tea.

If, after all that, you can think about supper, you could try a joint of venison from Green Cuisine, run by Dennis and Sue Green, who turned their land at nearby Sampford Courtenay over to deer farming four years ago. The meat is hung for a minimum of a week and a butchered by Mr Green before finding its way to the market in the form of steaks, sausages, roasting joints and braising cuts, unless it has already been used by Sue in one of her home-made pies or ready-cooked dishes — the venison and apricot casserole is especially good.

Something in the soil of Sampford Courtenay seems to produce gourmet. For this is also the home of Gary Jungheim and his family, committed cheese-eaters and owners of the Natural Life cheese stall. The Jungheims wanted to sell locally-produced cheeses, but they could not find exactly what they were looking for. So they devised their own recipes and asked Rachel Stevens, of Curworthy Farm in nearby Jacobstons, to bring her technical knowledge to bear.

The result is three unique hard cheeses. St Petroc, named after a 6th-century saint of Devon and Cornwall, is flavoured with tonic wine from Buckfastleigh Abbey; St Rumon, the saint of Tavistock Abbey, gives his name to a cheese that contains fresh chives, celery and parsley; and the powerful Trehill, named after Mr Jungheim's own farm, is a firm cheese studded with garlic and chives. All three are made with full fat



Citizen's charter: Tavistock market has been in operation since the early 12th century

milk and vegetable rennet, fashioned into small truckles and matured for six weeks. The St Rumon, popular with local pubs, is also made into large rounds and matured for six months.

Production is still on a small scale — at present running at one batch every three weeks, with each batch containing between 80 and 100 cheeses. Like all good cheeses, the

batches vary. "But what's better," Mr Jungheim asks, "permanent mediocrity or a cheese that's sometimes absolutely wonderful?" More than half of his production is sold through the Pannier market, and he also stocks a wide range of cheeses from other local producers. Curworthy Farm produces four cheeses of its own, all available on Natural Life's



Say cheese: Elise Jungheim at the Natural Life stall

Blue, from a farm near the Dart estuary, is available only between August and January because the sheep are milked only from March to July. The same farm makes Devon Blue from milk produced by its herd of Ayrshires.

My favourite was Quicke's mature unpasteurised Cheddar, from Newton St Cyres, near Exeter, a cheese with real bite. But all the cheeses are of the highest standard — probably because Mr Jungheim will stock only those he likes to eat himself. So does he sell any foreign cheeses? "Well, I do like this St David's — from Wales."

Twistock's Pannier market is open every Friday and on the first and last Saturday in the month, 9am-4pm. Natural Life's stall is open in the market hall 9am-4pm on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Its cheeses and other products are available by mail order from Trehill Farm, Sampford Courtenay, Devon EX 22RZ (0837 840684, fax: 0837 840510).

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FOOD AND DRINK

SATURDAY MAY 8 1993

# Green shoots of recovery

Frances Bissell sings the praises of succulent, tender English asparagus



PLAIN is best with asparagus — simply steamed or boiled, and served with a melting butter, a grinding of black pepper and, perhaps, a shaving of lemon zest. Fresh, green English asparagus is hard to beat.

For me, asparagus is one of that dwindling band of eagerly awaited seasonal treats, to be feasted on when available (it is in season for the next few weeks) and then forgotten for another year.

Asparagus soups are excellent. In the French culinary repertoire, the word *argenteuil* will indicate the inclusion of asparagus (*Argenteuil* is the small town near Paris which used to supply the capital's asparagus needs).

Eggs are good with asparagus — hence its affinity with mayonnaise and other egg-based sauces. Omelettes filled with thin asparagus or spruce are delicious, as are the tips cooked with scrambled eggs.

If you are planning some large-scale entertaining in the next few weeks, you can hardly do better than an asparagus feast, a buffet of asparagus dishes incorporating some of the ideas I have already mentioned, together with some of the following recipes.

As a contrasting starter, I would serve a platter of *salmone* (cured Italian sausages and hams), some Parma or San Daniele prosciutto, some Felino and Napoli salami, and perhaps some thinly sliced coppa (cured shoulder).

To follow the asparagus course, I suggest a small selection of English farmhouse cheeses, including Wensleydale. For a pudding, I can think of few things nicer than a chilled caramelised rice pudding, set in a large shallow dish.

Wine suggestions: Asparagus is not as difficult to match with wine as is sometimes thought. With our first asparagus meal of the season we served a 1988 Moselle Spätlese which was a perfect match. Red Loire wines served cool or lightly chilled and white Rhône wines also go well with asparagus.

**Oriental vegetable salad**  
(serves 6)  
**Dressing**  
2 cloves garlic (new season if available), peeled  
2in/5cm piece of lemon grass or 1sp grated lemon zest  
pinch of coarse salt  
2 Kaffir lime leaves (optional)  
basil and mint leaves  
1 tsp toasted sesame oil  
1 tsp lime juice or rice vinegar  
5-6tbsp groundnut oil  
1-2tsp soy sauce

Roughly chop the garlic and crush it. Add the lemon grass sliced and crushed with the salt. Stir in the oils, vinegar and soy sauce. Shred the herbs and stir into the dressing.

**Vegetables**  
4lb/230g slim green beans, topped and tailed  
4lb/230g green asparagus tips  
salad leaves  
5oz/140g fresh shiitake mushrooms  
5oz/140g oyster mushrooms  
2tbsp groundnut oil

Steam or poach the green vegetables, drain and mix with half the dressing. Put salad leaves in a bowl or on plates. Slice the mushrooms and fry in the oil. When just done, toss in the remaining dressing. Put the green vegetables on top of the salad leaves and the mushrooms on top of that.

**Anglian salad**  
(serves 8-10)  
2-3lb/900g-1.35kg new potatoes, preferably Jersey Royals  
6 free-range eggs  
4lb/340g asparagus tips  
6-8oz/170-230g home-made mayonnaise, crème fraîche or Greek yoghurt  
fresh chives or chervil  
salt, pepper

Scrub the potatoes and cook until just done. Boil the eggs for five or six minutes. Cool slightly and peel them. Break off the asparagus tops about 2in/5cm from the top and drop them in with the potatoes for the last five minutes of cooking. Drain the vegetables and, when

cool enough to handle, halve or slice the potatoes and put in a bowl with the asparagus. Remove one of the egg yolks and chop the remaining eggs. Mix with the vegetables and fold in the mayonnaise and herbs, and season to taste. Line a salad bowl with Cos or Little Gem lettuce leaves, heap salad in the middle and sieve egg yolk on top. The remaining asparagus stalks can be used for the following soup.

**Asparagus, garlic and potato soup**  
(serves 6-8)  
3pt/1.7l vegetable stock  
1 onion, peeled and chopped  
1 1/2lb/680g potatoes, peeled and chopped  
1 head of garlic cloves, peeled and sliced  
1lb/455g asparagus stalks, peeled and trimmed, if necessary, and chopped  
a few sprigs of thyme and tarragon  
skimmed milk  
seasoning

Divide the stock between two saucepans. Put the onion, potato and garlic in one, and the asparagus in the other — the thyme with

the potatoes and the tarragon with the asparagus. Cook each until the vegetables are soft and allow to cool before blending and sieving separately, the paler soup first.

Return the soups to the two saucepans, thin down with skimmed milk or stock as necessary, reheat and season to taste. Pour into a large, heated soup tureen from opposite sides so that the two colours swirl together.

For the next recipe, first line a Swiss roll tin (approximately 9x13in/23x33cm) with greaseproof paper, and butter it. Heat the oven to 180C/350C, gas mark 4.

**Asparagus, almond and Parmesan slice**  
(makes 6-8 slices)  
4 size 3 free-range eggs, separated  
4 tsp ground white pepper  
pinch of nutmeg  
pinch of salt  
1 tsp Dijon mustard  
2 1/2oz/70g self-raising flour, sifted  
1 1/2oz/40g ground almonds  
1 1/2oz/40g freshly grated Parmesan

**Filling**  
4lb/340g whole fresh asparagus  
2 or 3 free-range eggs  
1oz/30g unsalted butter  
**seasoning**  
**To finish**  
toasted flaked almonds  
freshly grated Parmesan  
**To serve**  
melted butter, seasoned with a little lemon juice

Put the egg yolks and one egg white in a bowl over hot water, together with the seasoning, nutmeg and mustard. Whisk until pale and fluffy. Whisk the egg whites to firm peaks. Fold the flour into the egg yolks, then fold in the almonds and Parmesan and finally fold in the egg whites. Spread in the prepared baking tray. Smooth the top, and bake for 12 minutes in the top half of the oven until just springy. Turn out on to a clean, damp tea towel and peel off the greaseproof. Cut into three. Prepare the filling by breaking the asparagus in pieces, boiling

and draining it. Remove the tips for decoration and make a purée with the rest, sieving if necessary. Boil the eggs for four to five minutes, shell, chop and mix with the asparagus. Mix in the butter and season to taste.

Sandwich the pieces of sponge with two layers of asparagus filling. Re-roll and leave for half an hour or so to let the flavours develop. Slice with a sharp knife and arrange on a platter or individual plates. Scatter on the almonds, sprinkle with cheese and decorate with asparagus tips. Hand out the sauce separately.

**Chilled caramelised vanilla and lemon rice pudding**  
(serves 6-10)  
3oz/85g round grain rice  
1 vanilla pod  
zest of lemon  
2pt/1.15l full cream milk  
sugar to taste  
Caramel topping  
6oz/170g granulated sugar  
3-4tbsp water

Put the rice, vanilla, lemon zest and milk in a saucepan or ovenproof dish. Cover and cook slowly until the rice is tender and the milk absorbed. This can take a couple of hours in the bottom of a low oven, more like 40 minutes on gentle heat on top of the stove.

When cooked, remove the vanilla pod, split and scrape the seeds into the rice. If the lemon zest has not cooked away in the rice, remove it. Sweeten the rice to taste. (At this point, if it is very thick stir in a little cream). Spoon it into a serving dish and smooth the top. Chill.

Put the sugar and water in a saucepan over gentle heat and stir until the sugar has dissolved. Raise the heat and cook just until the sugar caramelises, turning golden brown, and pour it over the rice pudding.

The caramel will harden immediately on contact with the chilled surface. This is by far the easiest method of caramelising the top of crème brûlée. I find, unless you have a super-efficient grill, which I do not.



## Fill every inch with bins

### BUILDING A WINE CELLAR 2

SIMPLE cellarers, having found their ideal storage spot, will want to fill it with wine at once. Smart cellarers know that a little pre-planning and thought over the placing of bins and other cellarage details are what's needed next.

In the old days, when houses with cellars were more common than they are now, wine storage was a simple affair. Each large, arched, brick-up hole in the cellar was known as a bin, and wine was stored floor to ceiling, bottle on bottle, flush with the brick until the bin was full.

Today, the modern version of the bin is the simple square wood and metal wine rack. This era's version is superior to its predecessor in that single bottles can be removed and replaced in the rack without disturbing others. I still think that these metal and wood racks, with holes so that they can be screwed to the wall, make the simplest and best of bin designs.

BUT they do rust if untreated, and care needs to be taken when removing bottles in order not to scratch labels; pristine labels are vital if you intend eventually to sell part of your cellar to finance other purchases.

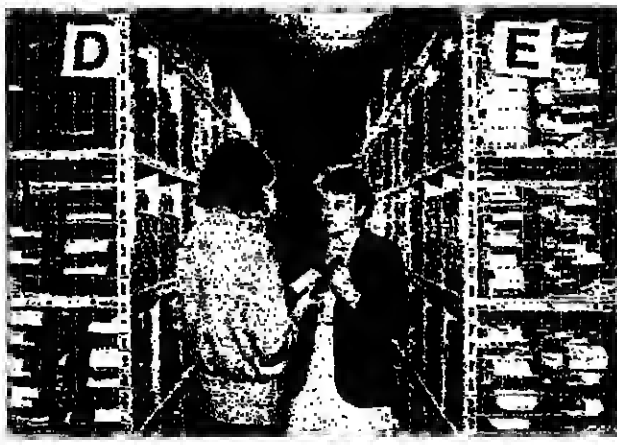
Majestic Wine Warehouses offers the cheapest and most varied range of wine racks. I have found, including a useful made-to-measure bin service. This is priced at 60p a hole, or 65p for a double-depth hole. Useful in that twice the number of bottles can be stored on the same wall space, but you will need the depth. Magnum and half-bottle racks are also available at 60p a hole and are worth investing in. Majestic also sells standard racks in a variety of sizes: £14.40 for a 24-hole size and twice that for a 48-hole version. Oddbins' two sizes are cheaper.

Fancy wine bins made in a variety of materials and sizes can also be had. I have seen dozens of different styles from ugly, cumbersome terracotta to the high-tech, minimalist

black hoops on sale at the Conran Shop and Smith & Taylor. These are expensive, but have the advantage that bottles can be slipped in and out of the hoops without scratching the labels. If you have money to spare, you may want to invest in elegant, wooden diamond-shaped bins, best utilised by storing a dozen or two of the same wine, as single bottles cannot be removed easily from the stack. Again Smith & Taylor can supply tailor-made birch-ply or oak versions.

Once you are equipped with tailor-made wine racks, utilising every inch of your cellar, it is extraordinary how many bottles can be stored in the smallest space. Work out a system that enables you to find each bottle once you have binned it. The simplest method is to give each horizontal row a letter starting with A, and each vertical one a number starting with 1, so that the hole three rows down and two in is C2. The great advantage of this find-a-bottle-in-a-bin method is that each hole is coded, and racks can be emptied and filled at will without misplacing bottles. But make certain every time you fill a bin with new bottles that their location is noted down in your cellar book.

It is worth remembering, too, that important *cru* classé clarets are worth more in their



Paradise found: Wine Society's reserves at Stevenage

original boxes than in your racks, so if you ever intend to sell, do not unpack them. If there really is nowhere in your home to store wine properly, think about buying a Eurocave. These temperature-controlled wine-cellar-in-a-cupboard look like large wardrobes, and can be stored anywhere you have the space and an electric socket. Not unlike a giant fridge, the advantage of a Eurocave is that it keeps wines constantly at the correct temperature. The disadvantage is the price: Eurocave 210E stores 210 bottles and costs more than £1,000.

Spiral Cellars, a French invention now on sale here, is an even swankier instant cellar. Well, fairly instant, in that a big hole has to be dug under your garage, kitchen or wherever, a watertight skin inserted, followed by spiral concrete

shelves — hence the name. The cheapest 400-bottle size will set you back about £2,500, with installation costs likely to be £500 plus.

Simple cellarers will need a cellar book to record their purchases in. This vital bit of cellar equipment can be just a loose-leaf file.

YOU can rule it up yourself, or else buy the rather grander, but just as practical, version sold by Lay & Wheeler of Colchester. Sensible cellar books have columns for the name and quantity of the wine purchased, plus the supplier and the price you paid for it, leaving a big space for tasting notes together with the dates you drank it on. Columns for the bin location of the wine makes sense. A comment each time on the maturity, or otherwise, of each bottle is the best note of all. This is, after all, the whole point of simple cellarage.

Next week: storing wine at wine merchants, plus how to work out which cellar wines you really need.

JANE MACQUITTY

● Majestic Wine Warehouses, 55 Victoria St, St Albans (0727 847912), Smith & Taylor, Chelsea Bridge Cellars, Brompton St, London SW6 (071-627 5070), Eurocave, c/o IFM Martock Business Park, Great Western Rd, Martock, Somerset (0935 826333), Spiral Cellars, Spinney Cottage, Headley Rd, Leatherhead, Surrey (0372 372181), Lay & Wheeler, 6 Culver St, West, Colchester, Essex (0206 764446).

Discovering wine holidays, page 6

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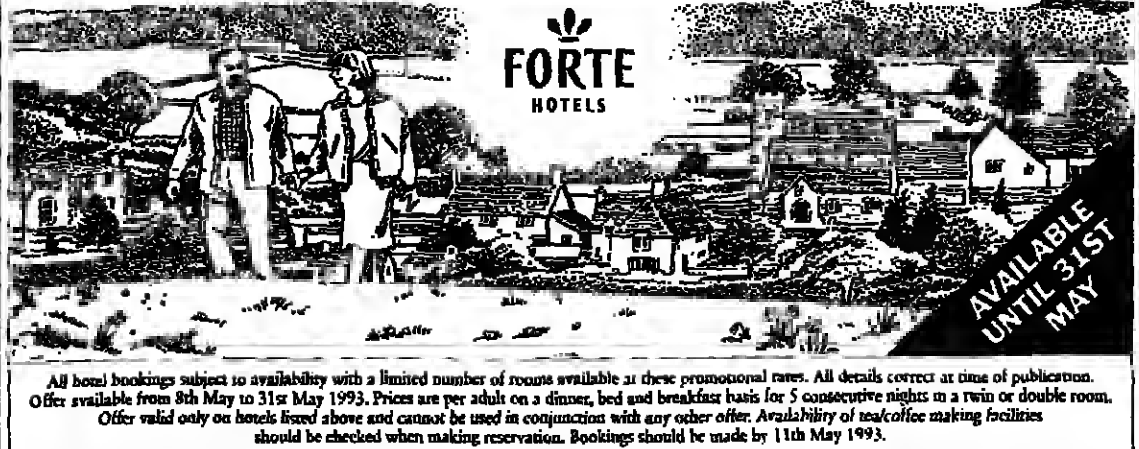
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Imbibing knowledge: oenophiles try out the serious business of wine tasting — "from there it was a case of learning discernment, or at least what we liked"

The meal is planned, everything seems under control and there is plenty of time to bathe and relax before the guests arrive. Suddenly realisation dawns: that special celerie is shivering in the garage, and there is no chance of it being ready to drink at dinner. Worry not. Take off the lead cap and microzap it on full power for 40 seconds.

Or perhaps the sauvignon is still sitting on the kitchen worktop, when it should be lying in the fridge. No problem. Just bung it in the freezer for half an hour.

Sacrilege? Daft tips from a cheap weekly magazine? Not a bit of it. This is advice from his master's voice — in this case James John, a master of wine and wit who is quietly chipping away at the great wall of pretentiousness that separates wine buffs from the rest of us.

Mr John usually shares his gems with students of his Bath Wine School, but for those who want to see the grape growing as well as flowing, he has joined forces with VFB Holidays to conduct three-day courses in Bordeaux and Champagne.

For these he came well prepared: he was the only man at the Gatwick check-in trying to export a dozen boxes of wine to France. This, he explained, once ensconced in the classroom at the Hotel Sainte-Catherine, was so that he could be sure of having exactly the right wines to demonstrate each point.

It was worth the effort. His lessons skillfully straddled all levels of interest and knowledge, from the plonk drinker to the enthusiast.

Our group sported the usual fourth-form mix of swot, show off,

## Good advice from his master's voice

Liz Gerard joins some eager pupils in a Bordeaux classroom to learn the art of wine tasting from an acknowledged maestro

mischief maker, etc. each of us anxious for teacher's approbation. Instead of bringing him an apple, we would return from four-hour lunch breaks with tales of a 1983 St Julien. The long lunches were a reminder that this was supposed to be a holiday, but the thirst for knowledge easily matched the thirst for a taste of fine wines. Even in the evenings, there was no respite, and at dinner Mr John would have to pontificate on his

selections from the hotel wine list.

In class, he gave us a quick run-through of how vines are grown before knocking down to the serious business of tasting. This is highly technical. First you have to learn to swirl the glass — to bring out the smell. Then there is the sharp intake of breath when you taste — motor mechanics must be natural. And finally, you are allowed to swallow.

Now comes the difficult part: the

description. Some people took to this like pigs to truffles, blithely chattering about gunsmoke, hyacinths and cedar wood. I managed "delicious" for a 1985 Chateau Nenin Pomarol, which Mr John said would be even better in four years' time. "It's going to taste like sautéed wild mushrooms," he declared.

For all the laughter, the session did teach us to identify one grape from another, and from there it was

a case of learning discernment, or at least what we liked.

The reward for the first day's hard labour — all four hours of it — was a trip through the Médoc to look at a lot of gnarled twigs poking through the gravel. Some of these were at Chateau Lafite, where we were privileged with a tour and a sip of last year's vintage — drinkable in 15 years' time.

Back in the classroom the next day, it was time for the truly practical: how to read a wine list, how to recognise faults and how to store, serve and stirp the stuff. Even the advanced students had flawed wisdom about "room temperature" and "letting it breathe", hence the microwave and freezer tips.

The graduation ceremony took place in the local wine store, where we pointed enthusiastically at the names of chateaux we had passed on our travels. Then came an end-of-term party, with a cut-throat game of dominoes using tiles with wine names in place of numbers.

It was time to return home and to Sainsbury's to assess the stock. I can recognise the names. I can swirl the glass, but there is one thing that needs a little practice: keeping a straight face while announcing: "...as the manager of Chateau Lafite was telling me last week..."

Discovering Wine holidays include Air France flight to Bordeaux or Sealink ferry to Calais or Dieppe for Epernay, four nights accommodation, four four-course meals and all wine. Prices from £415 to £550. Liz Gerard was a guest of VFB Holidays, Normandy House, High Street, Cheltenham, Glos, GL50 3HW (0242 526338). James John's Bath Wine School, The Old Byre, Priston, Bath (0761 470093).

### Play truant from the vineyards

BORDEAUX is a compact town, which is just as well if holiday sightseeing is to be jammed in between wine-tasting classes; many of its main attractions are within a few minutes' walk of the Hotel Sainte-Catherine.

The imposing Grand Theatre, with its dazzling gilded interiors, is just around the corner, dominating the Place de la Comédie, and it is only another five

minutes to the towering Montaigne des Girondins and the magnificent equine waterfalls that surround it.

The monument is on the edge of a vast market, a dusty combination of fine art fair and car boot sale. Here, you could pay as much for a scruffy decanter as for a Louis XV chair — and there can be few places with such a choice of ancient

perambulators and children's motorcars.

Culture vultures will enjoy the Museum of Decorative Arts with its charming salon settings, while the Beaux Arts offers an interesting collection of paintings and sculpture, including some by Veronese, Titian and Matisse. Bordeaux also boasts a natural history museum, and a wonderful public garden.

## The thrill of being in bed after Madonna

Suite dreams in a hotel near the world's most famous shop

IT FELT odd to pack a bag on Saturday afternoon at my flat in Notting Hill, west London, and ring for a minicab to go to the Hyde Park Hotel. The minicab was so clapped out that on arrival at the Edwardian hotel perched opposite Harvey Nichols, down the road from Harrods in Knightsbridge, I asked the driver to stop a little before the front door. If I was to stay in a suite, like the stars, then I wished to arrive like one.

The doorman, like extras on a stage set, played their part to perfection. One figure in a braided jacket, whisked my bag away before I could climb the steps. (Would it ever find my room? It did.)

Another said: "Good afternoon, madam," as though I were a regular guest.

Inside, the hotel bears witness to its former incarnation as a block of "residential chambers for gentlemen". Hyde Park Court was built with all the confidence that late Victorian architecture could muster: gilded ceilings, classical pillars, marble floors. The hotel was among the tallest buildings of its time. I am not a Tower of Babel, it led to an act restricting future buildings' height to 90ft and two stories.

In 1908 it opened as the Hyde Park Hotel, and if you had to pinpoint one reason for its success, it must surely be its proximity to the world's most famous shop. Prime ministers and pop-stars have all stayed here. Presidents Gorbachev and Reagan stopped by, not to mention Pavarotti and Madonna.

I was most interested in Madonna. My teenage years had been nourished by Madonna-worship, and I had been promised the same £1,500 royal suite that she had taken. She had used six rooms — two sitting rooms, two bedrooms and two

marble bathrooms — but that seemed excessive for me, so I settled for three.

It was rather like staying in a pretty country house. Pictures by Donato Forte, a scion of the Forte dynasty that owns the hotel, gave it a domestic feel. Flowers a rural one. The bedroom had an enormous, rather intimidating bed, given an extra frisson by the thought that Madonna had slept in it.

I spent the rest of the afternoon shopping across the road. But despite some brief flights of fancy when I thought I had Madonna's means, I returned for tea empty-handed.

Then I met Mr Richards. He was my butler, an inscrutable Jeeves figure although born in Vietnam. I only regretted that I

didn't have shoes to be polished or much else to ask of Mr Richards. At dinner I didn't do justice to the speciality of Italian dishes without the rich sauces. Feeling my figure was far from Madonna-like, I merely opted for the light

tagliatelli and monkfish. I slept until 10.30, but luckily I hadn't missed breakfast. A quick call and Mr Richards arrived with a trolley of goodies.

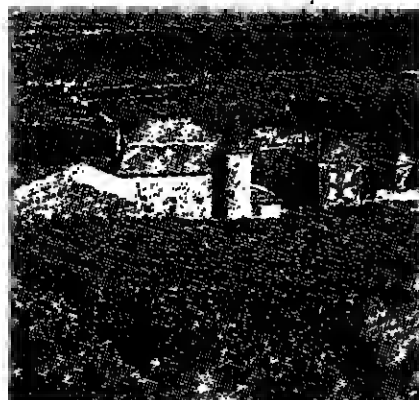
The hotel had arranged for me to go riding in Hyde Park. I rode around sedately for an hour, enjoying the spring sunshine. Initially I had been reluctant, firstly because it meant leaving the hotel, and secondly because I didn't think it was what Madonna would have done. But she would have approved of the exercise. Anyway, I couldn't go on pretending to be Madonna for ever.

RACHEL KELLY

Hyde Park Hotel, 66 Knightsbridge, London SW1 (071-235 2000). Suites start at £370, plus VAT. Hyde Park Riding Stables, 071-723 2813.

## JOURNEY TO PROVENCE

AN 8 DAY RIVER JOURNEY FROM BURGUNDY TO PROVENCE ABOARD THE MS ARLENE

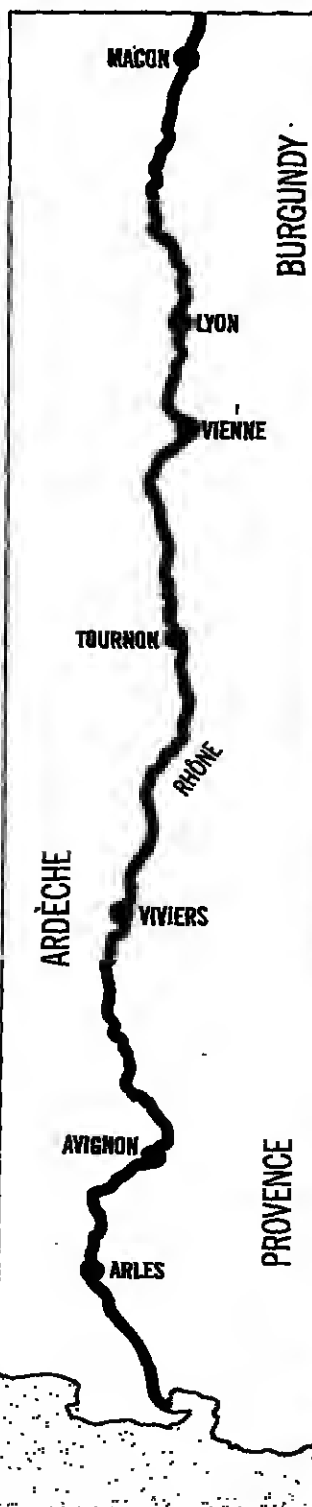


This wonderful special offer from Noble Caledonia allows one to travel through the idyllic countryside of the Saône and Rhône, far away from the busy roads and motorways. During the weeks sailing, visits will be made to Macon, Lyon, Vienne St Colomb, Tournon, Viviers, Arles and Avignon, on a journey linking the heart of Burgundy with the far south of Provence.

Highlights for many will be Cluny with its Roman Abbey set in the beautiful Beaujolais countryside, Lyon — a gastronomic delight and home to an extraordinary collection of Gothic art. Roman Vienne, Tournon in the heart of the Rhône vineyards and Viviers, surely the most wonderful medieval village in France. On day five we sail into Provence and explore the Roman wonders of Arles and Avignon, the Carthusian and the enchanting countryside.

To our minds, this is the ideal way to explore this lovely corner of France, avoiding as it does tiring road journeys and the need to move from hotel to hotel along the route. In addition there is no doubt that a different perspective is gained from aboard a river vessel as she navigates slowly through the peaceful landscape. On some sections of the river there is the attractive feeling that one has stepped back in time with little visible of the 20th century.

Each day the Arlene enters another region allowing you time to acclimatise gently and absorb the subtle changes in scenery, architecture and life styles. Visits ashore are arranged throughout the week and after a rewarding excursion we return to our vessel and the air conditioned comfort and good food for which the Arlene is well known.



### THE MS ARLENE

The MS Arlene is a first class river vessel accommodating up to 90 passengers in considerable comfort. The cabins are arranged on two passenger decks and all are outside with shower and toilet. Each cabin is air conditioned and has telephone, television and radio.

As you would expect of a French owned and operated vessel the meals served in the attractive restaurant are delicious and the service offered throughout the ship is excellent. There is a large lounge and bar together with a sun and observation deck which is a wonderful place to relax, read and watch the world sail by. The MS Arlene is well known to us and deserves her excellent reputation.

### DEPARTURE DATES AND PRICES PER PERSON IN TWIN BEDDED CABINS

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9 October	£939	£999	£1109
16 October	£939	£999	£1109

This departure operates in the reverse order, sailing from Vienne to Macon. Price includes Economy air travel London/Paris and Marseille/Lyon or vice versa. Paris/Macon or vice versa by TGV. 7 nights aboard the MS Arlene on full board. Services of Tour Manager, airport transfers, port fees. Not included: Travel insurance from £18, shore excursions, tips to crew.

### HOW TO BOOK

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High church: worship at St Mary's. "Immutably Anglican but reassuringly Catholic"



ALTHOUGH the words Church of England are marked clearly on the facade of St Mary's, the church in London, an unassuming passer-by might easily mistake it for a person to do so, and perhaps make his or her way instead to the evangelical St Michael's Church in the square around the corner, would be to miss an experience of worship which many believe today is endangered.

St Mary's is a leading light in the Anglo-Catholic or High Church wing of Anglicanism. It is one of the few churches which can be described with some justification as traditionalist, or more Roman than the Romans. The church, outside, on a discreet red-brick Victorian exterior typical of Catholic churches built in the last century, advertises Mass, not Holy Communion. The Rev Bill Scott is known as the parish priest, not the vicar, and is addressed by all as "father".

Anglo-Catholicism grew out of the Oxford Movement, begun in 1833 by John Henry Newman. John Keble and Edward Pusey to defend the Church of England against the prevailing extremes of Protestantism and Romanism. After an internal struggle which, in many ways, mirrors today's debate about women priests, Newman began to doubt the claims of the Anglican church and became a Roman Catholic in 1845, leaving Pusey and Keble as the "movement" leaders. Many Anglo-Catholics, including the agriculture minister John Gummer, believe the vote to ordain women priests was the death knell for the Oxford Movement.

Some of these are contemplating following Newman down the difficult road to Rome. But worship at St Mary's, where debate about women priests is muted, should convince many that not only will it take a lot more than a controversial decision by the General Synod to put an end to Anglo-Catholicism, but the church might even be strengthened as a result.

As if in sympathy with the upheavals testing the very foundations of the traditionalist wing of the church, St

## More Roman than Romans

Ruth Gledhill imbibes a heady cup of tradition in an Anglo-Catholic bastion

St Mary the Virgin, 30 Bourne St, London SW1W 8JY (071-730 2423).

VICAR: The Rev William Scott.

SERMON: Guest preacher delivered thoughtful homily on Christ's compassion.\*\*\*

ARCHITECTURE: A poor example of Victorian gothic revivalism, although the many changes since it was built in 1874, including a Martin Travers reredos, give the feel of a renaissance church with baroque additions.\*\*\*

LITURGY: A tantalising mixture which defies any of the usual pigeonholes of traditional, modern, Anglican or Catholic.\*\*\*

MUSIC: Mass by Lassus, the classic renaissance composer. Beautiful choral endeavours from the choir aloft.\*\*\*

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: Mineral water or wine in the presbytery, and the chance to meet some wonderful English eccentrics.\*\*\*

Mary's shuddered repeatedly during our worship, as London Underground trains rattled underneath. In the porch, a copy of a 1989 joint declaration by the former Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, and Pope John Paul II, advocates the pursuit of the arduous journey to Christian unity, "whatever obstacles are perceived to block the path". No amount of juddering can shake it from the wall. Books on sale include some published from Faith House in Westminster, from where the response of the opponents to women priests is being co-ordinated by the umbrella group Forward in Faith.

At St Mary's, worshippers have one thing in common: a love of tradition and of the sacraments, such as communion, penance and baptism. According to the Catholic Media Office in London, High Mass and Low Mass no longer exist in the Roman Catholic

Church, and there is only Mass. Sung Mass at Catholic churches is often referred to colloquially as High Mass, however, and in the Anglo-Catholic wing of the Church of England, High Mass is a thriving institution, a heady feast of song, incense and ritual.

The service was based on the traditional Anglican rite for communion, with additions from the Roman missal. The church seemed full, with about 150 people. Worshippers included Augustine Hoey, a world-famous missionary, and Alan Porter, manager of Wippell, the clerical outfitters.

The service opened with the introit procession, with clergy, laymen and altar servers bearing a cross and candles, and waving a silver censers. One of the servers turned out to be Gordon Dulieu, communications officer for the liberally-inclined, pro-women priests' Southwark diocese across the river. The three men leading

the worship assumed different roles, indicated by their dress. Fr Scott was in the role of deacon and wore a gold silk dalmatic, diaconal equivalent of the chasuble, over a white linen and lace alb. The celebrant was the Rev David Priest, a non-stipendiary clergyman, whose full-time job is group manager for St Mungo community trust, an organisation in Fulham that looks after people who come out of psychiatric hospitals. He wore a gold silk chasuble over an alb. Michael Mundy, who as a layman was the representative of the congregation, wore a gold silk tunic over an alb. All three wore birettas, a square cap worn normally by Roman Catholic clergy.

At the Gloria in Excelsis, which was in Latin, the three men sat down and removed their birettas in unison. My neighbour Elizabeth Mills, who heads Women Against the Ordination of Women, explained: "Birettas come off at the name of Jesus."

The gospel, wrapped in a gold silken tasselled cover, was then brought in procession to the lectern and censed. A guest speaker, Fr Alan Grainger, preached on Christ's compassion. "We are loved as we are," he intoned from a pulpit that reached high above us. "God longs for us to become better people, to be the people that he intends. But he loves us here and now, as we are." At the end we sang the *Regina Caeli*, an anthem in honour of Mary, mother of Jesus, and a traditional extra in this church. As we slipped drinks in the presbytery after the service, the fear that women priests will mean an end to Anglo-Catholicism seemed to slip away. It is impossible to imagine St Mary's moving into the Roman Catholic Church today, modernised as it has been by the second Vatican Council (1962-5). In its Anglo-Catholic extremity, St Mary's remains impossibly Anglican and at the same time reassuringly Catholic, witness to hope for the Church of England.

● Sunday services: 9am, 9.45am, 11am, 1.15pm, 6pm. High Mass, 6pm. Solemn Evensong and Benediction.

On this page last week a picture of the Dome of the Rock in Jerusalem was incorrectly captioned: we apologise.

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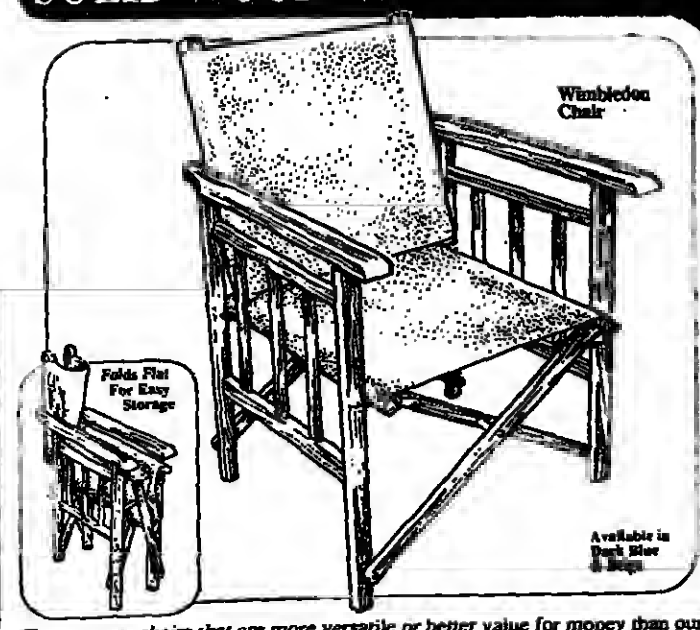
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## WHAT TO WEAR

# Bed, boarders and midnight feasts

An enterprising hotel is easing the path to boarding school for nervous first-timers.

Ros Drinkwater eavesdropped on the giggles

The first form of Princess Helena's has news for the fashion pundits — frocks are for wimps, as are frills, pastels and everything else mothers traditionally associate with ten-year-old daughters. Baseball jackets, jeans and Doc Marten's rule. OK?

In the blue and white nursery of the Pippa Pop-Ins children's hotel in London, you can hear a pin drop. Nine little girls eye each other nervously. This is a "getting to know you" weekend for girls going to boarding school for the first time. When they next meet in September, it will be as pupils of the Princess Helena College in Hertfordshire. Meanwhile they have two days of high jinks ahead, getting to know one another and meeting Ma-ron and Mademoiselle, to hear about school life.

"But I won't know anyone!" For centuries the British have packed their children off to the echo of this cry. Pippa Deakin has miserable memories of her first night at boarding school. "Those first few hours make such an impression," she says. "I arrived late, and was bundled into a rickety top bunk. At that age little girls can be very unkind. Everything was strange, the games, the jokes, it took me weeks to fit in. All the others wore M&S knickers, mine were from Harrods — can you imagine anything worse?"

Where children are concerned Ms Deakin tends to corner the market in bright ideas. She claims her hotel, opened in January 1992, is the first in the world exclusively catering for children. Its best recommendation is that of the



1,000 guests so far, 60 per cent are return visitors.

The idea for the boarders' weekend first came from an overheard conversation when two young guests, both about to go to different prep schools, were comparing notes. "I'm dreading it," said one. "Me too," said the other. "I won't know anyone..."

Ms Deakin contacted her

old school and put the idea to the headmistress, who in turn contacted the parents. During the weekend Ms Deakin and her staff organise activities including a scavenger hunt, an improvised play, an organised pillow fight and the *piece de resistance* — the midnight feast. "It's a really fun atmosphere," she says, "but it's important to get them to use

their brains, their personalities and characters to integrate and learn about each other."

By 2pm a barbecue lunch has broken the ice and it's time for a heart-to-heart with Ma-ron and Mademoiselle. "Can I bring my Pink Panther slippers? If I am really terribly ill, can I go home? Is it true there's a ghost? Can you use phone cards?"

Despite the recent report of a decline in the demand for boarding-school education, there is no shortage of pupils at the Princess Helena College, founded 1820, patron Her Majesty the Queen. Ma-ron Peggy Edwards thinks the weekend is a splendid idea. "Boarding-school is marvelous for girls, it teaches them to live with others and care for others in a specially creative environment, and of course they'll love it — eventually. But I see it every year, getting over that hurdle of not knowing anyone. This lot won't be homesick, they'll settle in in no time."

At six o'clock the girls vanish upstairs to put on frocks. Emily, she of the baseball jacket and Timberland boots, looks embarrassed, but thinks on her feet. "You have to keep one for emergencies," she explains. This emergency is a candle-lit dinner, during which several anxious mothers ring up. "Oh Mummy, don't fuss — it's brilliant," says Simone. "Must dash, we're having a jelly-bean fight."



Sunday, sweet Sunday and nine sleepy heads come down to breakfast. "Don't tell," someone whispers. "We stayed up till two. Wicked!" Trying to write picture captions is hopeless — they've all swapped clothes. Is that Katie or Holly in Gap? Which twin has the Doc Marten's?

Ms Deakin has advice for mothers packing school trunks. "Listen to your children. Don't be tempted to send them off with anything that will upstage the others. Kids arriving in designer clothes will be teased mercilessly. For wearing after school hours, jeans and baggy sweaters are best. These days they are very fashion conscious, they want the 'right' jeans, the 'right' T-shirt. What they don't want to do is stand out."



ABOVE

Rowena (left) wears blue cotton pyjamas, M&S, £13.99. Simone wears red and white striped satin pyjamas, M&S, £18.99.

LEFT

From left, Emma wears leather brogues, Timberland, £36. Charlie wears her own Doc Marten's. Emily wears green suede ankle boots, Naf Naf, £45.

BELOW LEFT

Holly wears white cotton sweatshirt, Benetton, £25.99; black leggings, M&S, £9.99. Ma-ron Peggy Edwards wears silk overshirt, Debenhams, £29.99.



A metamorphosis has occurred in the night. The reserved Charlotte has emerged from her shell re-christened Charlie. "Charlie," Holly confides, "owns the front half of a donkey. Cool!" Katherine is relieved to find she's not the only girl in the world who's never played lacrosse. Emma is the class clown, totally unfazed by her new nickname — "bog-rol". She, Emily and Rowena are already "sworn blood

brothers" — they adore horses and share the same shoe size. Does friendship need anything more?

5pm. Bags are packed and addresses exchanged by the time parents arrive. The adults look totally bewildered by the change of atmosphere. Time for one last chorus of "There were nine new boarders" and "See you in September!"

● The Princess Helena College, Preston, Lancashire. Hertfordshire SG4 7RT. Pippa Pop-Ins, 410 Fulham Road, London SW6 1DU (071-385 2458, fax 071-385 5706).

PHOTOGRAPHS  
Ros Drinkwater

## THE TIMES

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SPORTING LIFE

# Hooping it up, politely

Helen Pickles, mallet in hand, stalks the ball to learn the civilised art of croquet

It is no accident that Alice plays croquet in Wonderland. As with all her adventures there, the game is exasperating, unpredictable and idiosyncratic: nothing looks as it is. Lining up my mallet for the first hoop, I was politely told the best route was to hit the ball some 60ft in the opposite direction.

Forget everything you may have heard about maiden aunts thwacking balls into the shrubbery in spiteful gloom: croquet is a game of silent but awesome strategy. Indeed, the Croquet Association gets terribly upset by the constant portrayal of the game as vicious and evil. "You are looking to make an advantageous shot while, obviously, trying to put your opponent at a disadvantage," says Tony Antenen, secretary of the CA. "It's no different from snooker."

Although the game is believed to have originated in Ireland about 1830, it was in England that it took off, becoming the fashionable pastime of the idle rich, because they had the time (a game can last three hours) and the land (a full-sized court is three times the area of a tennis court). Croquet was also one of the few games in which women could compete on an equal footing with men. This is still true. Virtually all competitions have mixed entries. "As long as you can handle a 3lb mallet

and keep going for a couple of hours, physical needs come second to mental application," Mr Antenen says. "You need a chess player's mentality to think ahead."

You must also be able to watch a game being taken away from you and not become agitated, he says. As long as you stay in sight, "the best thing is to have a cup of tea or a glass of wine."

Herein lies the key to croquet's appeal. It is gorgeously civilised. You do not need to get dirty, sweaty, spend hours in tedious training exercises (warming-up is forbidden, as players could gain an advantageous knowledge of the playing surface) or be harangued by puffed-up lineups (it is assumed that honesty prevails).

Played as either singles or doubles, the object of the game is to get your two balls through 12 hoops — the six hoops are "run" twice — in the correct sequence and to the centre peg before your opponent.

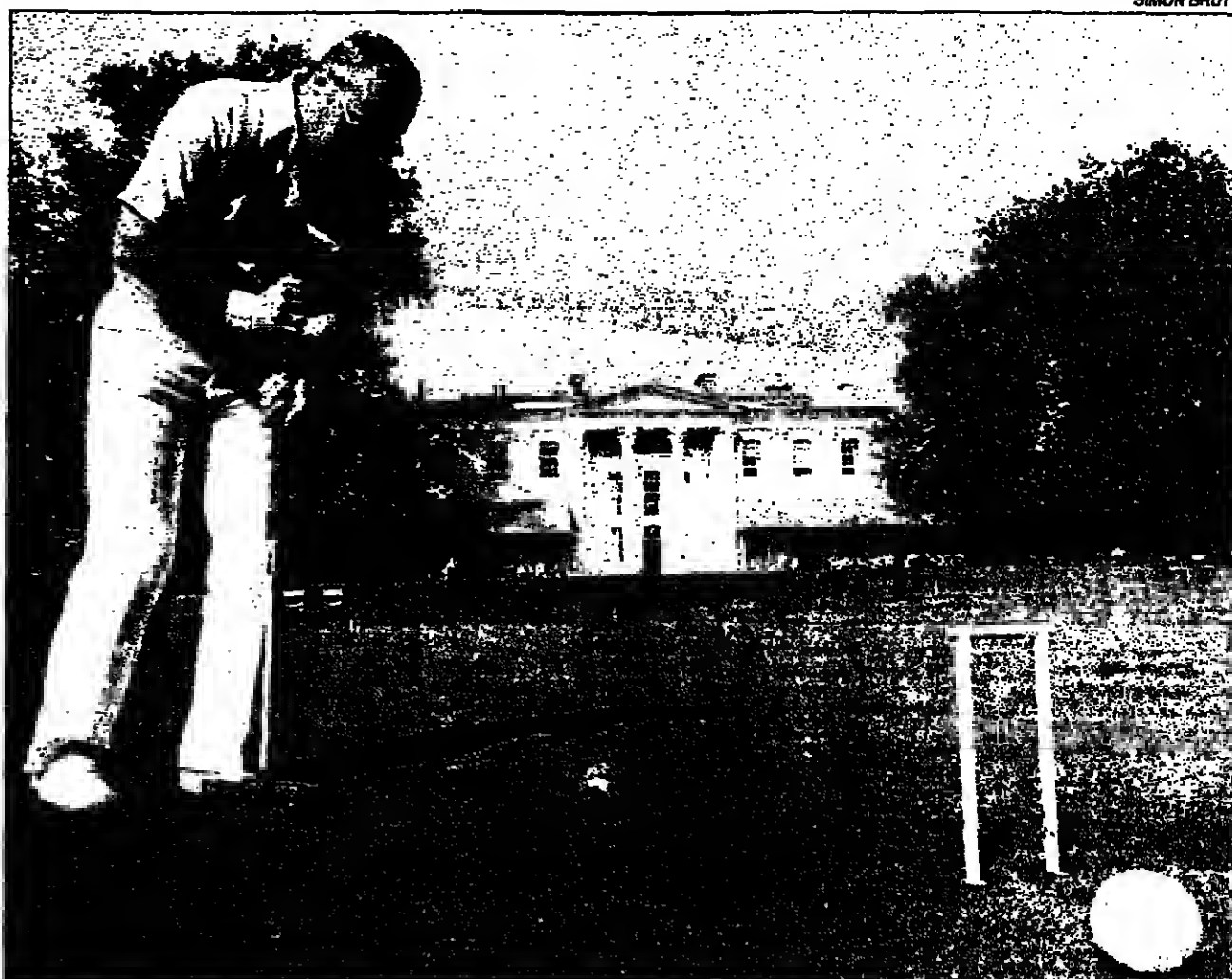
Like snooker, the game is about making "breaks", setting up a run of shots. As breaks can last up to 40 minutes, there is plenty of time to quaff some chilled chablis.

Bonus shots can be earned by running a hoop (passing through) or by hitting another ball, a "roquet" (pronounced as in croquet). The latter earns two extra goes: the "croquet" stroke when the ball is placed next to the one it has hit and struck so that both move, and the "continuation" stroke. If this stroke roquets another ball you gain another two free strokes. You can keep doing this until all three balls have been roqueted or you run a hoop, in which case you take your bonus shot and start again. The aim is to set up balls in strategic places, like stepping stones around the court.

"During your first season, it's unlikely you'll have a grasp of what you're doing," said Syd Jones, a founder member of Tyneside Croquet Club, Northumberland, who was to be my coach and partner. "That comes in the second season,



Crazy croquet: Alice in Tenniel's illustration



Playing it cool: though a civilised game, croquet can be exasperating — not, of course, that a player would let it show

when you start to understand tactics: why, for example, you position a ball by Hoop 3 when going for Hoop 2."

Standing about a foot from the ball, you swing the mallet like a pendulum between the legs. Unless you're very squint-eyed, it's almost impossible to miss the ball, as the mallet head is roughly the same surface area as the ball.

As for direction, you simply approach the ball along the line you want to send it, a technique called "stalking the ball". You feel a little foolish staring down your mallet as if it were a telescope, but it soon becomes second nature.

Having mastered the basic swing, there are only four strokes to learn: the roquet, the croquet, the positional and running the hoop. Here, a familiarity with Newton's laws of motion comes in handy. For example, placing your ball behind the other in a croquet shot and betting your ball hard

will send both balls about the same distance, whereas placing them side by side means the other ball will scarcely move. Arranged somewhere in between and the balls will roll off in different directions.

This was alarming at first, reminding me of the hapless hedgehogs in Alice's game against the Queen of Hearts. (For the technically minded, the balls will split at twice the angle of aim so you should aim at a point midway between where you want them to go.)

Running the hoop was the most exasperating shot. As the hoop is only one eighth of an inch wider than the ball, the balls have a habit of ping-pong off the uprights, or getting snugly lodged in between.

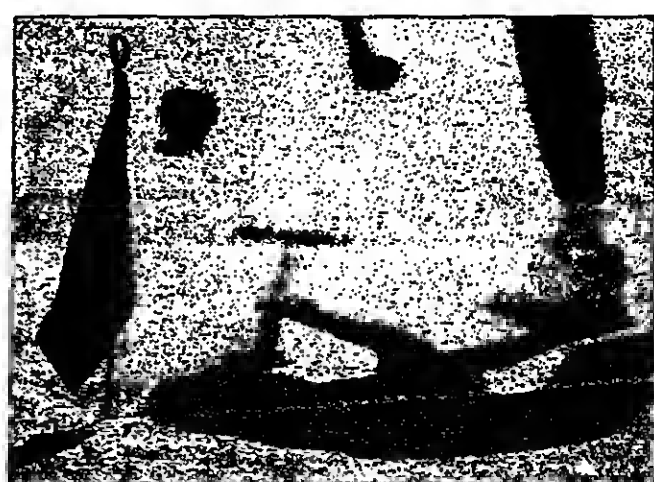
Mr Jones and I took on Mr Antenen and Alice Jones, who is chairman of the Tyneside club and whose diminutive stature belies a turbo-charged drive and a "we-take-no-prisoners" attitude. Each time I had positioned myself for a hoop, she would blast me to the opposite corner of the court. It was hard not to feel victimised.

However, this only served to bring out a latent cunning streak. Having roqueted Mr Antenen's red, I croqueted him down to Hoop 4, nicely positioned for my partner and difficult for Mrs Jones to dislodge. The temptation to shout "Take that, you cad!" was overwhelming. Instead, I did a little jig, and smirked disgracefully. It is such a chivalrous game that seasoned croquet players would probably have said, "Bad luck, old chap", and offered some advice.

Gamesmanship is not encouraged, and pure defensive play is considered unsportsmanlike. "People who play one hoop at a time, then split their opponents' balls [making it hard for them to play a roquet] are infuriating," Mrs Jones said. "It's what we call an Aunt Emma, and it is very boring."

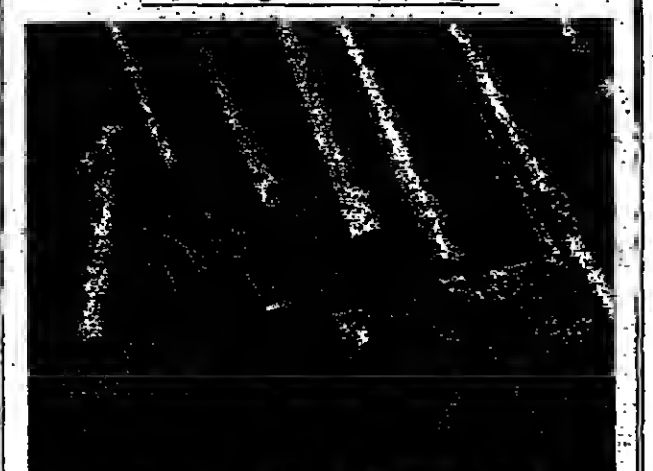
But be warned: croquet is not all balmy afternoons and chilled chablis. "Yesterday, the races and football were cancelled, but we played for seven hours in the pouring rain," Mr Jones said happily.

Next Saturday is National Croquet Day, when clubs will offer a free introductory lesson and/or tournament tickets. For details of your nearest venue, contact the Croquet Association (see box).



Shadows fall over the last stroke: now it's time for chablis

## Through the hoops



THE game described above is Association Croquet. Many clubs also play Short Croquet (smaller court, playing six not 12 hoops) or Golf Croquet (less complicated, with no bonus shots and quicker: a good introduction).

There are about 140 croquet clubs in Britain. For further information, send large SAE (29p stamp) to B.C. Macmillan, Commercial Manager, The Croquet Association, c/o The Hurlingham Club, Ranelagh Gardens, London SW6 3PR (071-736 3148).

Club membership fees range from £40 to £150 depending on number of courts and facilities. Membership of the Croquet Association (£21) brings discounted rates on equipment, books, tournament fees and tuition.

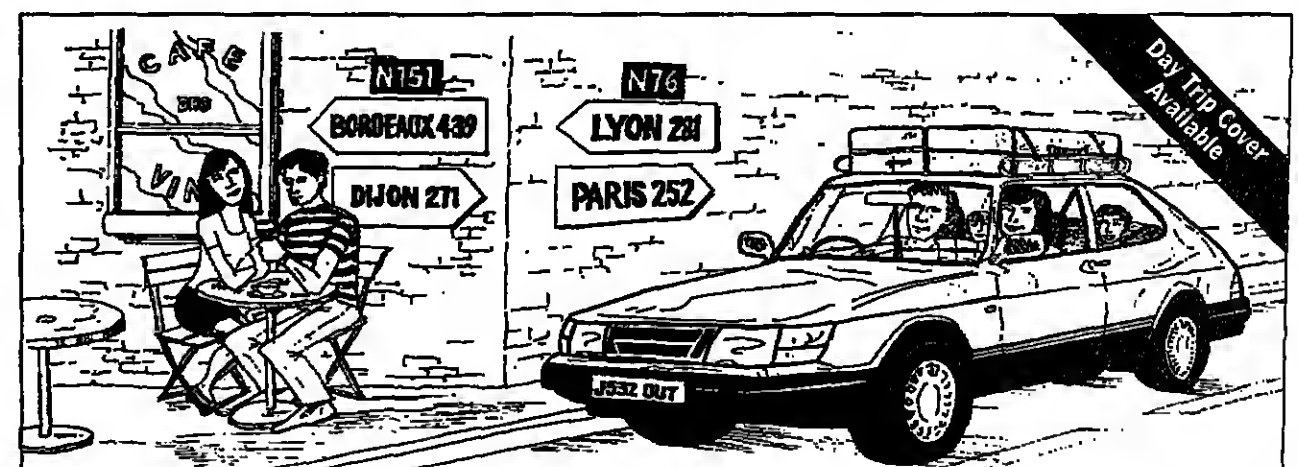
Scottish Croquet Association: Secretary, 13 Park Place, Dunfermline, Fife, KY12 7QL (0383 722368).

Clothing: Whites are not essential (except in tournaments), although many players prefer them. Aim for comfortable, reasonably smart shirt and trousers, or knee-length skirt. Black-soled shoes, such as trainers.

Equipment: Most clubs supply everything for the beginner, including a mallet. Later, you will be expected to have your own mallet, from £50 to £130.

Coaching: Clubs usually offer free coaching. Intensive, week-long summer schools are available through the CA.

Events: There are more than 100 tournaments and championships during the season: April-October, May 29-June 1, Inter Counties, Southwick, East Sussex; June 5-6, Home Internationals, Budleigh Salterton Lawn Tennis & Croquet Club, Devon; June 15-20, British men's and women's championships, Chesham Croquet Club, Gloucestershire; July 18-25, British Open Championships, Hurlingham; August 1-7, Championship of Ireland, Carrickmines; September 16-19, British Masters, Hurlingham.



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ABOVE  
Back row, from left, Katie wears baseball jacket, Euro Disney, FF45; denim jeans, Gap, £28. Holly wears white sweatshirt, Benetton, £25.99; her own striped dungarees. Simone wears baseball jacket, M&S, £20; denim jeans, Gap, £28. Front from left, Emily wears grey T-shirt, the Sweater Shop, Cambridge, £22.99; denim jeans, BHS, £36. Emma wears cotton knit sweater, M&S, £29.99; leggings, M&S, £9.99. Charlie wears cream jumper, Debenhams, £19.99; black jeans, M&S, £11.

FAR LEFT  
Emmo (left) wears cotton cowgirl shirt, M&S, £19.99; blue jeans, M&S, £13.99. Katie wears denim shirt, Gap, £16.99; denim jeans, Gap, £28; T-shirt, Gap, £8.

LEFT  
From left, Katie wears denim jeans, Gap, £28; denim shirt, Gap, £16.99. Holly wears white cotton sweatshirt, Benetton, £25.99; black leggings, M&S, £9.99. Simone wears baseball jacket, Euro Disney, FF45; denim jeans, Gap, £45. Katherine wears cotton blouse, M&S, £11.99.





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## FILM

**ACCIDENTAL HERO (15):** Promising sally on hero worship, married by Dustin Hoffman's grating performance and a director (Stephen Frears) not in total control. With Andy Garcia. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5066) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

**AN ACTOR'S REVENGE (PG):** Revival of Ichikawa's 1982 film about a female impersonator (Kazuo Hasegawa) plotting revenge. Visually dazzling, but cold to the touch. **ICA** (071-930 3647).

**ALIVE (15):** A terrific plane crash, then it's slowly downhill for this true-life story of survival and cannibalism in the Andes. Ethan Hawke, Vincent Spano: director, Frank Marshall. **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2836) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).



Seeking justice: Gong Li in *The Story of Qiu Ju*

**UN COEUR EN HIVER (12):** Love, sky games and damaged friendships between two instrument makers and a young violinist. Wonderfully observed, delicate drama from Claude Sautet. With Daniel Auteuil, Emmanuelle Béart, André Dussollier. **Camden Plaza** (071-455 2443) **Lumière** (071-836 0691) **Gale** (071-727 4043) **Odeon: Kensington** (0426 914666).

**GROUNDHOG DAY (PG):** Harold Ramis's marvelously fresh, humane comedy about a weatherman (Bill Murray) who always wakes up to the same day. With Andie MacDowell. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5066) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **Lido: Shaftesbury Avenue** (0426 911583) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

**FOREVER YOUNG (PG):** Test pilot frozen for 50 years awakes and searches for true love. Endearing old-fashioned fantasy, with Mel Gibson, Jamie Lee Curtis. Director, Steve Miner. **MGM Pavilion** (071-830 0331) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

**INDOCHINE (12):** Love in a hot climate. A little plot, but Catherine Deneuve and gorgeous images carry the day. Director, Régis Wargnier. **Odeon: Kensington** (0426 914666).

**MEDITERRANEO (15):** Mafiosi soldiers fought the second world war on a Greek island outpost. Attention, well-acted, light as air. Director, Gabriele Salvatores. **Curzon: Mayfair** (071-465 8865) **Screen on the Green** (071-225 9320).

**MR SATURDAY NIGHT (15):** Some late jokes, but a mostly satisfying, cornball vehicle for Billy Crystal (as an old-time comic in his twilight years). With David Paymer. Crystal also directs. **Odeon: Haymarket** (0426 915353).

**THE MYSTERY OF EDWIN DROOD (12):** Timid version of Dickens's novel, with Robert Powell as the cathedral musician obsessed with his nephew's fate. Director, Timothy Forder. **MGM: Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6278).

**NATIONAL LAMPION'S LOADED WEAPON 1 (PG):** Juvenile spoof of the *Lethal Weapon* series, with just a few chuckles. Gene Quintano directs. Emilio Estevez, Samuel L. Jackson. **MGM Baker Street** (071-352 5066) **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **Odeons: Kensington** (0426 914666) **West End** (0426 915574) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

**ORLANDO (PG):** Virginia Woolf's exuberant novel about a free spirit (Tilda Swinton) who lives for 400 years, changing sex on route; filmed with great aplomb by British director Sally Potter. **MGM Chelsea** (071-352 5066) **Milner** (071-235 4225) **Plaza** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **Renoir** (071-837 8402) **Screen on Baker Street** (071-835 2772).

**THE QUINCE TREE SUN (U):** Spanish artist Antonio López: strives to capture a quince tree on canvas. Victor Jory's magical meditation on art and nature. **Renoir** (071-837 8402).

**RICH IN LOVE (PG):** Aggravating, docile tale of a dysfunctional Charles and Jane. *Danny* Miss Daisy. Bruce Beresford directs. Albert Finney and Kathryn Erbe. **MGM Baker Street** (071-352 5066) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2836) **MGM Tottenham Court Road** (071-836 6148).

**SOMMERBY (12):** Richard Gere returns to Joe Eszterhas after the *Civil War*, but is he really the *Indiana Jones*? Plus he's in, based on *The Return of Martin Guerre*. Director, Jon Amiel. **Barbican** (071-638 8881) **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2836) **MGM Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6278) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Nightingale: Coronet** (071-727 6705) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

**THE STORY OF QIU JU (12):** Chinese stylist Zhang Yimou changes tack with a wonderful, simple film about a peasant (Gong Li) seeking justice. **Curzon: West End** (071-438 4805) **Gale** (071-727 4043) **Screen on the Hill** (071-435 3368).

**TRESPASS (18):** Siege warfare in an abandoned factory between treasure-hunters and the local gang. Forcible at first, then dulled by excess. Walker Hill directs. Bill Paxton, William Sadler, Ice T, Ice Cube. **MGM Oxford Street** (071-636 0310) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **Plaza** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

**THE SHOWMAN:** Alan Bates makes his debut here as a monstrously egotistic actor-dramatist touring Austria; British premier. Endrick comedy by Thomas Bernhard. **Almeida, Almeida Street, N1** (071-359 4404). *Previews* from Tues, 8pm, opens May 17, 7pm; then Mon-Fri, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm. (5)

## THEATRE

### LONDON

**ARCADIA:** Tom Stoppard in sparkling fun brings together love, chaos theory and much else. Excellent cast includes Felicity Kendal and Emma Fielding. **Camden Parkway** (071-267 7034) **Empire** (071-437 1234/497 9999) **MGM Fulham Road** (071-370 2836) **MGM Trocadero** (071-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** (071-792 3332).

**THE BESHT TELLEERS:** Reviving the tradition of Jewish storytelling, this travelling company brings two programmes of poignant, exhilarating tales to the West End. **Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2** (071-836 2132). *Telling Tales*: Mon, Fri, 8pm, Sat, 5.45pm and 8.30pm. *The Story of the Last of the Just*: Tues, Wed, Thurs, 8pm, Sat, 2.15pm. (5)

**CITY OF ANGELS:** Top quality Larry Gelbart/Cy Coleman musical, packed with wit, set in L.A. and the life of the private eye movie. **Princes of Wales, Coventry Street, W1** (071-839 5872). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. (5)

**CRAZY FOR YOU:** Thrillingly staged new version of the Gershwin musical *Girl Crazy*. Exceptional entertainment value. **Princes of Wales, Coventry Street, W1** (071-839 5872). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs, Sat, 3pm. (5)

**THE DEEP BLUE SEA:** Penelope Walton the victim of unsatisfactory men in Rattigan's well-staged but so old-fashioned drama. **Apollonia, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1** (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 7.45pm, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm. (5)

**THE GIFT OF THE GORGON:** Blazing performance by Judith Dench in combat with Michael Pennington in Peter Shaffer's RSC success tackling the themes of justice and terrible revenge. **Wyndhamite, Charing Cross Road, WC2** (071-867 1113). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Sat, 3pm. (5)

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING EARNEST:** Maggie Smith commands the brittle world of lost handbags in this elegant revival. **With Alex Jennings, Richard E. Grant, Margaret Tyzack, Aldwych, The Aldwych, WC2** (071-836 6404). Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. (5)

**A JOVIAL CREW:** Max Stafford-Clark's marvelous discovery of a play about the lure of the vagabond life, written on the eve of the Civil War. **The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2** (071-638 8891). Wed, Thurs, 7.15pm. (5)

**NICE DOROTHY:** Aural Smith plays the sensible middle-aged woman suddenly head-over-heels in love: new play by David Logan. **Orange Tree, Clarence Street, Richmond** (081-940 3633). *Previews* from Thurs, 7.45pm; opens May 18, 7.45pm; then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm, mats Thurs (May 20, 27, June 3), 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. (5)

**REDEMPTION'S VICES:** Michael Browning's comedy derived from Sak's acid tales of Edwardian society. With Richards Carey as a repentant hostess. **New End, 27 New End, NW3** (071-794 0022). *Previews* Tues, Wed, 8pm; opens Thurs, 8pm; then Thurs-Sun, 8pm, mats Sun, 4pm. (5)

**THE RETURN OF MARTIN GUERRE:** Writer-director Jon Harris has gone back to primary source material, a 1590 report, for this version of the identity drama. **MGM: Shaftesbury Avenue** (071-836 6278).

performed by the quantity named Very Fine Productions. **Dee Theatre Club, Duke of Cambridge Pub, 64 Lawford Road, NW5** (071-485 4303). *Previews*, Tues, 8pm, press night Wed, 8pm, then Tues-Sat, 8pm until June 5. (5)

**THE SCHOOL OF NIGHT:** Peter Whelan's drama on Marlowe's last days, boasting a charismatic performance by Richard McCabe. **The Pit, Barbican Centre, Silk Street, EC2** (071-638 8891). Tonight, Mon, Tues, 7.15pm, mat today, 2pm. (5)

**THE SHOWMAN:** Alan Bates makes his debut here as a monstrously egotistic actor-dramatist touring Austria; British premier. Endrick comedy by Thomas Bernhard. **Almeida, Almeida Street, N1** (071-359 4404). *Previews* from Tues, 8pm, opens May 17, 7pm; then Mon-Fri, 8pm, mats Sat, 4pm. (5)

**REGIONAL**

**BAGNOR:** Alky James directs Fugard's *My Children My Africa* A teaching experiment in the Eastern Cape goes tragically wrong when riots break out. **Watermill, Bagnor, near Newbury** (0535 46344). *Opens* Tues, 7.30pm, then Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs, 2.30pm, some Sat, 2.30pm. (5)

**CONVENTRY:** Rod Williams's powerful *Abolition*, where three prisoners are confined to a cell during a riot, starts a 12-venue tour here. Same production as in London last year, new cast. Dates in Manchester, Salisbury, Aldershot follow. **Arts Centre, University of Warwick** (0203 524524). Fri, Sat, 7.45pm. (5)

**MANCHESTER:** Tom Courtenay and Polly James star in *Poison Pen*, a new Ronald Harwood play inspired by the suicide (as he was murdered) of composer Peter Warlock in 1930. **Royal Exchange, St Ann's Square** (061-833 9333). Half-price preview Wed, 7.30pm. *Opens* Thurs, 7.30pm; then Mon-Thurs, 7.30pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm, mats Wed, 2.30pm, Sat, 4pm. (5)

**STRATFORD-UPON-AVON:** Robert Stephens as the mad king, Simon Russell Beale as Edgar in Adrian Noble's production of *King Lear*. **Royal Shakespeare Theatre** (0783 285623). *Previews* from Mon, 7.30pm; opens May 18, 7pm; from May 27 in repertoire with *The Merchant of Venice*. (5)

**WATFORD:** Marital discomfort in Willy Russell's *One for the Road*, with Peter Hugh Daley eager to room but Tracie Bennett dreaming of a new dishwasher. **Pelicans, Watford Road** (0923 225571). *Previews* Fri, 8pm; opens Mon, 7.45pm, then Mon-Thurs, 7.45pm, Fri, Sat, 8pm, mats Sat, 3pm. (5)

**DANCE**

**SIOBHAN DAVIES DANCE COMPANY:** The Brighton Festival scoops a world premiere from leading contemporary choreographer Siobhan Davies, whose latest piece is set to an original score by Kevin Volans, one of the composers whose work she has championed through several commissions. The new work, entitled *Waiting to Tell Stories*, is a somewhat puzzling, *White Bird Featherless*, last year's collaboration with the composer Gerald Barry. **Gardner Theatre, Brighton** (0273 676926 for details). Thurs next Sat, 7.45pm. (5)

**SWAN LAKE:** Covent Garden's new Cuban recruit, José Manuel Carreno, dances his first *Swan Lake* with the company on Thursday, when he is partnered by the up-and-coming Leanne Benjamin, a dancer whose dramatic flair should provide an interesting counter-balance to the flamboyant, crowd-pleasing Cuban. There are also twelve performances this week of *Dor Gubato*, the controversial new production that has disappointed the critics despite its feast of non-stop dancing. **Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, London WC2** (071-240 1050). *Dor Gubato*: today, 2.30pm, 7.30pm; Tues, Wed, 7.30pm. *Swan Lake*: Thursday, 7.30pm. (5)

**JAZZ**

**LONDON JAZZ FESTIVAL:** This exciting new venture, spread over ten days, kicks off on Friday with artists including the upstart *Basin Brass* Band from New Orleans (Union Chapel, 7.30pm), pop pianist Kenny Drew (Tennor Club, 8pm) and *Indelible*, comprising Andy Sheppard on sax, Steve Loddar on keyboard and the excellent Nana Vasconcelos on percussion (Bloomberg Theatre, 7.30pm and 10pm). **London Jazz Information** Hotline 071-811 1652.

**CLAIRE MARTIN:** This assured 25-year-old singer, deservedly acclaimed after her recent appearances in London, is playing here with an impressive band including Ian Bellamy on sax and Clark Tracey on drums. Next Saturday sees her at London's *Just Cafe*. **Whitehaven (Cumbria), Rosehill Theatre** (0456 62422), today, 7.30pm. **Manchester, Band on the Wall** (061-832 0183). Mon, 8pm. **Turnbridge Wells, High Rocks Inn** (0892 215532). Wed, 8.15pm. **Bristol, St George's Hall** (0272 230355). Thurs, 8pm. **Edinburgh, Queen's Hall** (031-668 2018). Fri, 8pm. (5)

**ROCK**

**P.J. HARVEY:** Expect visceral, mutant blues with a dash of weird humour from the west country star and her band, currently promoting their powerful new album, *Rid of Me*. **Nottingham, Rock City** (0602 412544). Mon, 7.30pm. **Bristol, University** (0272 229008). Tues, 7.30pm. **Birmingham, Humberford** (021-236 4236). Wed, 7pm. **Norwich, UEA** (0603 505401). Fri, 7.30pm. (5)



Gill Clarke, Jeremy James: in Siobhan Davies Dance Co's *Waiting to Tell Stories*

## MUSIC

**CLASSICAL**

**PHILHARMONIA ORCHESTRA/ENSEMBLE INTERCONTEMPORAIN:** Pierre Boulez conducts the major premiere of *Antiphonies*, a British work for piano and orchestra by Sir Harrison Birtwistle. Schoenberg (*Music for Imaginary Film*) and Stravinsky (*Pulcinella*) complete the programme. Before the concert, at 6pm, conductor and composer present an in-depth exploration of the new piece. See interview, page 14. **Festival Hall, London, SE1** (071-928 8800). Tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

**LEIFZIG RADIO SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA:** Krystof Penderecki may have been supplanted as probably the best known of his generation of Polish composers by the recent remarkable rise of Henryk Gorecki, but he still has a high enough profile in the West to be able to celebrate his 60th birthday with a UK tour. Here he conducts a programme of three of his own works — *Adagio* (from the 1960 *Requiem*), *Concerto No 2* (with Timothy Hogg the soloist), and the brooding, neo-Romantic *Symphony No 2* (Christmas). **Festival Hall, London, SE1** (071-928 8800). Mon, 7.30pm. (5)

**OPERA**

**WOZZECK:** Director Deborah Warner makes her eagerly awaited operatic debut with this new staging of Berg's grimly compelling treatment of Büchner's drama, to be performed in a new English translation. Andrew Shore sings the title role. *Vivian Tierney* is Marie. Alan Woodward, the Drum Major. **Grand Theatre, Leeds** (0532 459351/440971). Thurs, 7.15pm. (5)

**OTELLO:** Elijah Moshinsky's reliable staging returns for another short run. *Vladimir Ashkenazy* sings the jealous Moor; *Katia Riccardi* is Desdemona. **Justina Diaz Lago** The conductor is Covent Garden's resident master Verdian, Sir Edward Davies. **Royal Opera House, WC2** (071-240 1050/1911). Mon, 7.30pm. (5)

## LEONARD COHEN

Sounding more and more like Tom Waits these days — he even has a song called "Cissing Time" on his latest album — the poet and songwriter proposes to woo London with his mournful ballads, old and new. **Albert Hall, London, SW7** (071-589 5212). Mon and Tues, 7.30pm. (5)

**CHARLES AND EDDIE:** The duo with the irresistible, sweet soul sound originally met on New York's A-train, a late-night radio show. *Landscape With a Windmill*, and lesser known works by Courbet, Sassetta and Heamskerck. **National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2** (071-839 3321). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until June 20. (5)

**CARICATURES FROM THE BRITISH REQUEST:** Frank Aubrey Gibson, who worked for *The Illustrated London News* in 1916 and 1941, was a great collector of printed caricatures from between 1780 and 1850. Some 60 of them are exhibited here. **Victoria and Albert Museum, Cromwell Road, SW7** (071-538 8500). Mon, midday-5pm, Tues-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 10am-5.50pm, until September 12. (5)

**INTERIOR/EXTERIOR:** The president of the Royal Academy, Roger de Grey, is 75 this year. To celebrate, there is a show of his series of paintings, *Interior/Exterior*, inspired by his studio and the orchard outside. **Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, W1** (071-439 7438). Daily, 10-11am, 4-6pm, until June 6. (5)

**NEW BEGINNINGS:** Ken Powell has amassed an unrivalled collection of British art of the immediate post-war era. His particular favourite is Prunella Clough, but he also owns a splendid representation of Sir Iain Hogg's form abstraction. **Courtyard Institute Galleries (Nos 9 and 10), Somerset House, Strand, WC2** (071-873 2526). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, Sun, 2-6pm, until June 13. (5)

**TRADITION AND REVOLUTION IN FRENCH ART:** This show representing the collection of the Musée des Beaux-Arts in Lille gives a very fair idea of the cross-currents in French art between 1700 and 1880. The collection includes some familiar works such as Delacroix's *Liberty and the People* and David's *Belshazzar*, but its strength is in line works by academic painters little known in this country such as the symbolist Jean-Charles Cazin. **National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, WC2** (071-439 7438). Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm, until July 11. (5)

**GEORGIA O'KEEFE/JAMES TURRELL:** An odd meeting at the Hayward Gallery brings together a retrospective of Georgia O'Keefe (1887-1986), close associate of Stieglitz and a leading figure of the American avant-garde, and James Turrell (born 1930), who works in pure light. The O'Keefe display is the first important showing of her work outside America. **Hayward Gallery, South Bank, SE1** (071-921 0873). Daily, 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed, 10am-5pm). (5)

**GEORGES BRAQUE — PRINTS:** Throughout his long life Braque produced prints of various kinds, starting with a series of Cubist etchings between 1907 and 1913, but he really concentrated on print-making only after 1945. **Tate Gallery, Millbank, SW1** (071-821 1313). Mon-Sat, 10am-5.50pm, Sun, 2-5.50pm, until June 27. (5)

**REGIONAL**

**ROYAL RESIDENCES OF THE VICTORIAN ERA:** Among the royal collection of drawings and watercolours which survived the Windsor fire unscathed are a number of works commissioned by Queen Victoria and Prince Albert to commemorate the palace in which they lived and the humbler residences they visited. The show gives an evocative picture of their lifestyle. **Whitworth Art Gallery, University of Manchester, Oxford Road, Manchester** (061-273 4985). Mon-Wed, Fri, Sat, 10am-5pm, Thurs 10am-9pm, until July 31. (5)

**ROMANESQUE:** The opening show of the new Henry Moore Institute galleries in Leeds is, surprisingly enough, not devoted to Moore but instead to stone sculptures from medieval England. **Henry Moore Institute, 75 The Headrow, Leeds** (0532 467487). Mon-Fri, 10am-5.30pm (Wed to 6pm), Sat-Sun, 1-5pm, until July 19. (5)

**NICHOLAS EVANS:** An impressive show of the recent work of a retired Welsh miner whose claustrophobic, packed carvings caused a sensation when they were first exhibited 15 years ago. **St David's Hall, The Hayes, Cardiff** (0222 342611). Daily, 10am-4.30pm. (5)

**RECENT BRITISH SCULPTURE:** This South Bank touring show celebrates the achievements of the generation of sculptors who came to international prominence during the 1980s. **Derby Museum & Art Gallery, Strand, Derby** (0332 255588). Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm, Mon, 11am-5pm, Sun, 2-5pm, until May 6. (5)

**THE IMPRESSIONIST AND THE CITY — PISSARRO'S SERIES PAINTINGS:** The Royal Academy's new show concentrates on the last decade of Camille Pissarro's life when he shifted his focus from the country to the city to paint sequences of works based on the urban landscapes of Paris, Rouen, La Havre and Dieppe. **Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1** (071-439 7438). July 2-October 10. Tickets in person or through First Call (071-240 7200) or Ticketmaster (071-344 4444). (5)

**THATCHER'S CHILDREN:** Trevor Griffiths's latest play, commissioned by the Bristol Old Vic after receiving a grant of £25,000 from the Arts Council's "Be Bold Scheme", receives its world premiere on May 20. Griffiths says "This isn't a propaganda play. It's a play about what life was like in the Seventies, Eighties and Nineties." **Bristol Old Vic, King Street** (0272 250260). May 19-June 12. (5)

**BUXTON FESTIVAL:** Buxton is not promoting its own productions this year but buying them in from elsewhere. Opera North's autumn staging of *Donizetti's Il matrimonio segreto*, under director Jonathan Miller, is previewed, alongside another Miller staging, *Donizetti's Maria Stuarda*.

**WORD-WATCHING**

Answers from page 18  
**ZAFTIG**  
(a) Of a woman, plump, corpulent, sexy, from the Yiddish. Adapted from the German *schlitz* joke. "Zaftig Dolly Parton once described herself as looking like a hooter with a heart of gold."  
**SHAMMA**  
(c) A long, loose robe resembling a toga, worn by both men and women in Ethiopia, from the *Amharic*. "The streets are full of the gentle flutter of the white muslin shammias worn by the shy, slim Ethiopian women."  
**DRAWANSIR**  
(d) Name of a blustering, bragging character in Villiers's burlesque *The Rhetorist*, who in the last scene is made to enter a battle and kill all the combatants on both sides. Hence allusively and attributively. "Mr Layard, a very Drawansir of political debate, a swashbuckler, and soldado of Parliamentary Conflict."  
**EUPORISTON**  
(f) A common medicine, a medicine that may be easily procured, from the Greek *eu* (happy) and *poriston* (the plural) easily procured (i.e. *pharmaka* medicines or potions). "This Euporiston doth melt down, and draw forth tough Phlegm."

of her work outside America. **Hayward Gallery, South Bank, SE1** (071-921 0873). Daily, 10am-6pm (Tues, Wed to 8pm), until June 27. (5)

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# Striking an awkward note

Stephen Pettitt talks to Sir Harrison Birtwistle, whose new work for piano and orchestra has its British premiere tonight

You realise I've been here all day talking to people. And yesterday, Sir Harrison Birtwistle has just disposed of an interviewer from Classic FM. His straightforwardness is often mistaken for brusqueness, and he admits that he is feeling slightly ashamed. "I think I gave her a bit of a bad time. You know what she asked? She said 'What's it like being on the cutting edge of music?' I said I didn't know what she meant."

Birtwistle, whose *The Triumph of Time and Omnipotence* are about to appear on a new Collins Classics recording and who has an opera about King Kong to a text by Russell Hoban up his sleeve for Glyndebourne, has no time for trendiness. He composes simply because he feels like it. Asked why he wrote his new work *Antiphonies*, he replies: "Why do I write anything? Now, what's your question?" Asked how he arrived at the idea of a piano concerto, or whether the piece was a concerto at all: "No, it's *Antiphonies* for piano and orchestra. Somebody told me it was the last thing he'd expect me to write." Asked whether this suggested an element of bloody-mindedness: "Maybe that was one of the reasons, yes."

But the belligerence is good natured. Birtwistle is neither as terrifying nor as unforthcoming as his reputation would suggest, and a more serious and revealing discussion soon ensued. "I'm interested in ideas of hierarchies in orchestras: that's something I arrived at recently. The piano is the one instrument that can play the complete thing, whereas a solo clarinet or whatever can only play one line. It's that aspect which interested me."

So is the work a conventional battle? "You say conventional battle, but is a concerto really an argument? It very rarely is, you know. It's just something to do with the fact that the piece for one moment is encapsulated in the piano, and then it's encapsulated in the full orchestra. There is a hierarchy established in the piece. Some of the time, for instance, I make a composite instrument with

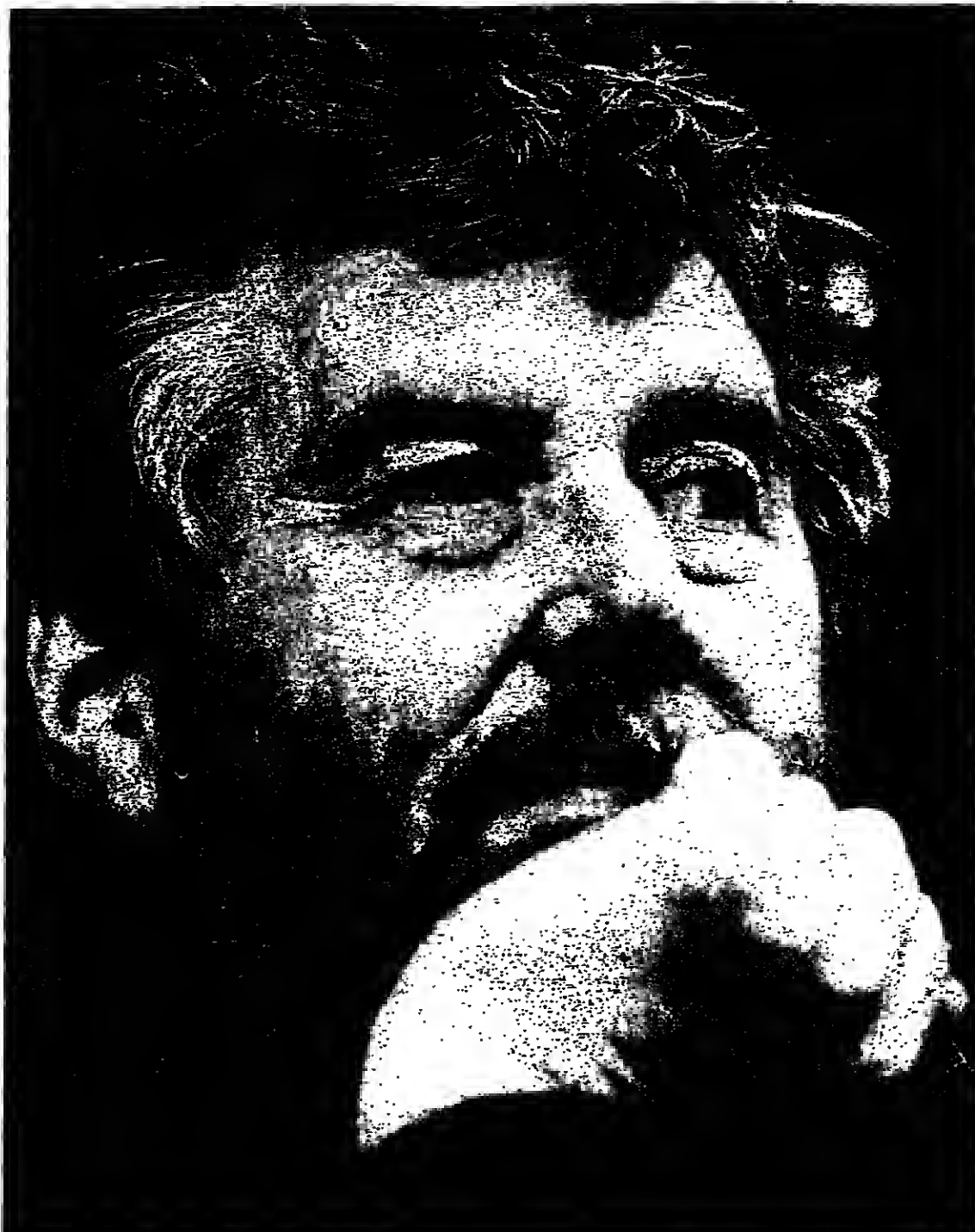
tuned percussion and piano. The musical sense is always with three or four instruments, or groups of instruments, have a role in the hierarchy. But the piano is an entity in itself. Is there an element of subversion of this hierarchy? "Oh yes, sure."

Birtwistle's music is renowned for its structural toughness more than its outward emotions. He goes back over ideas, takes them in different directions; he looks at his material and sees implications inside rather than possibilities for expanding on the outside. When he sits down to compose a new score, he has "an idea of the total thing, but nothing to do with the details. And it always ends up as being something seemingly different. If you like, it's an intuitive thing. But in the end I don't want to write intuitive music; I want it to speak in a formal voice. I stamp down a general direction, not a form, and very often a texture as well. Very often it's to do with chance. I'm very interested in that, though I don't want my pieces to sound chancy."

Perhaps it is not surprising that a composer whose music is so uncompromising should express concern at the listening habits of today's audiences. "It's important for them to know that there are things other than emotional expression. It's not just heart-rending. I'm very worried about music now. It's being marketed not to be listened to. I would hate to think I was writing for wallpaper. But that kind of marketing is affecting all music. That's why there's the great success of all these pieces that are written on one chord. Isn't there one guy, a Pole? Gorecki?"

The ingenuousness is as real as the distaste. "It's music where you can go to sleep and wake up half an hour later and you're still where you were in the first place. If I see my role at all it is to be the opposite of that. You either have to sit down and take my music on board or turn it off."

● Birtwistle's *Antiphonies* is performed at the Festival Hall, London SE1 (071-928 8800) at 7.30pm tonight



Sir Harrison Birtwistle: "I'm very worried about music now. It's being marketed not to be listened to. I would hate to think I was writing for wallpaper. But that kind of marketing is affecting all music"

THEATRE: Kate Bassett on a revealing and inventive solo show by an American performance artist

## Gems glimpsed among the garbage

Maybe the bottom half of Dinah LaFarge modelled for Disney's Tom and Jerry cartoons. She has legs like that woman whose face is never shown: the hemline, vast calves and old slippers played under her weight.

*Lardo Weeping*, the new solo show by the deaf, female American performance artist Terry Galloway, is itself about a woman who never shows her face. Firmly bolted inside her New York apartment, Dinah — whose unpaid bills are as outsize as her girth — talks to a

cassette recorder, and only sallies forth for a split second to pick up her mail, wielding a gun and wailing like a banshee.

The point of Terry Galloway's piece is to give a face and a voice to women cut off and out of artistic representations. Not only do we get to see the whole picture — a mountainous woman in ridiculous horn-rimmed half-glasses and a dressing gown the size of a two-person tent — we also behold Dinah both in and under the flesh. In a striptease that moves from burlesque to

Lardo Weeping  
Finborough Arms

bizarre, she peels off her robe, her kinky underwear, layers of skin, her stuck-on bear-bag breasts.

Yet, even as *Lardo Weeping* deals with exposure, the theatricality of Galloway's performance works against her. Dinah has one foot in the land of cartoon. She slurps a coffee containing a bowl full of sugar and expects a pot plant to get its second wind if it, likewise,

downs caffeine and calories. Though Galloway is touching on autobiographical experience, her use of caricature acts as a shield. As with the padded bodysuit, we never quite see Galloway laid bare.

The glimpses that are afforded make that regrettable. There is an intellectual artist behind this, working over personal and political attitudes: fat as a feminist issue, the deconstruction of sexuality, poverty and power. As an avant-garde performer, Galloway is deliberately foraging among the garbage. She

throws trash on stage, placing tabloid headlines alongside Emily Dickinson, and rambling around irritating dodges, nibbling food, and saluting Sylvia Plath's poems.

The downside is that as her mind wanders so does yours: the comedy can be unsophisticated, and the connections are obscure, but Galloway produces a unique, unplaceable art-form. Though not profoundly touching, *Lardo Weeping* can bring tears of laughter to your eyes through a sheer loquacity that is off-the-wall and freefalling.

CONCERT

## Veteran digs for victory

LSO/Solti  
Barbican

Sir Georg Solti's way with Bruckner is both predictable and, within that predictability, constantly full of surprise. With the London Symphony Orchestra he dusted down the composer's own epitaph "Romantic" for his Fourth Symphony, turning it into a bracing high romance of lusty action.

This is not to imply a lack of inwardness or insight both become palpably present, but they simply surface from a different, sometimes unexpected angle. After the highly charged tremulousness of the opening, Bruckner's famous double and triple-note figures positively danced on their way. And it is Solti's ability to take up this energy and press it to urgency in the recapitulation, with virtually no broadening of tempo, which isolates the second group of themes into such breathtaking coolness and stillness.

The firm clarity of the cellos' line in the Andante, and the sprung, rather than pushed chords of the strings' chorale were entirely to be expected. But again, what Solti made of his material in its transformation was a delicious surprise. The light airiness of archaic movement and texture turned, almost before the ear had realised it, into a climax of bold, heraldic colour.

This energy, in turn, was contained to balletic jaunty, evenly-paced scherzo. At last it was possible to hear what the composer Robert Simpson meant when he likened a Bruckner symphony to an archaeological dig. Solti's last movement emerged with all the symphony's finds thrillingly displayed in the clear, bright light of their full purpose.

The concert had begun with a subdued performance of Stravinsky's *Symphony in Three Movements*. Solti discreetly and tellingly made the most of Stravinsky's quicksilver syncopations. Rapid changes of metrical direction in the first movement were pined against the neo-classicism of the second, while the filtering through of each solo voice in the third led to a final affirmation which sealed the subtle strength of the performance as a whole.

JOHN PERCIVAL

HILARY FINCH

CLASSICAL RECORDS

## Trolls, trills and timeless appeal

The Norwegian chart-topping pianist Leif Ove Andnes is in his young prime. At 23, he has award-winning discs of the Grieg Concerto, of Janáček and Chopin behind him, and he has just released a recital programme to celebrate Grieg year (Virgin Classics VC 759300 2 3). This superbly engineered disc reveals the unique plain-air quality of Andnes's playing: the light, bright fingerwork, the sense of shifting distances in his control of dynamics and tone-colour, and above all the delight he takes in everything he plays.

He recaptures Grieg's own youthful spontaneity in the Sonata which took him just 11 days to write. The *Poetic Tone Pictures* are given an almost Webern-like minimalism of treatment. By contrast, though, Andnes knows a troll when he sees one, and makes the appropriate Lyric Piece vibrate with an earthy resonance.

The young Swiss pianist, Andreas Haefliger (son of the great tenor, Ernst), shares the extrovert enthusiasm of Andnes for all he plays; but he is a more angry, sometimes impatient young man. His Schubert Impromptus Op 90 and 142 (Sony SK 53 108) are fiercely energetic, emphasising the sharp dynamic and rhythmic contrasts of Schubert's writing, rather than his song.

And then Alfred Brendel. At the mature centre of his recording life, he explores Beethoven's "new way" forward in the Op 31 Sonatas, and leaves the listener with the impression that there is scarcely anyone better equipped to do so. What Brendel himself has called the "compulsive, but scatter-brained determination" of the first sonata finds a sympathetic response in Brendel's own temperament. He takes a palpable delight in pretending that the two hands are incapable of playing together, then proving they can, in the rapid unison scale passages which follow the little syncopated figures.

Brendel makes the exagger-

ated rhetoric and mockery of the slow movement into yet another of the cartoons and masks he is so fond of collecting. His fascination with the surreal surfaces too in the waywardness of the third sonata. For the second, "The Tempest", the measured turbulence of the Allegro, dense with notes, throws the recitative (which looks forward to the Ninth Symphony) into unearthly relief.

Decca has released two more volumes of the live BBC recordings of Shura Cherkassky. Chopin's F minor Fantasia and Sonatas 2 and 3 are on volume four (Decca 433 650-



Brendel: at the mature centre of his recording life

2) and an irresistible collection of Encores from the last 15 years on volume three (433 651-2).

Here is Cherkassky as glorious chameleon, playing as from a time when the pianist was as much a creator as the composer. He moves from his own melancholy "Prélude pathétique", written at the age of 11, to the Rachmaninov Elegy and Sibelius Romance he played to his 80th birthday year, 1991. In between, the Wigmore Hall audience egg him on to naughtiness in Shostakovich's Polka from *The Age of Gold*, and sigh their appreciation of his Scriabin C sharp minor Etude.

HILARY FINCH

THE SUNDAY TIMES

## Fun and games with Angus Deayton

By the time you reach my grand old age you know how attractive you are to the opposite sex. In a certain light or with a good suntan... It's so difficult to know whether you are under-or over-exposed — I hope to God people aren't sick of the sight of me on TV...

Angus Deayton, celebrated scriptwriter, quiz show host, master of the voice-over and arch exponent of intelligent comedy is about to take a risk in his first straight acting role. Carol Sartre uncovers the man behind the image. In *The Magazine* — *The Sunday Times* tomorrow

English National Opera  
HANDEL

## Ariodante

'A baroque triumph' *Times*

'Rococo... duetting with Murray is a knockout, one of the most gorgeously matched vocal thrills imaginable' *Guardian*

'Ann Murray... produces singing of an infinitely moving poignancy and brilliance' *Daily Telegraph*

'Lesley Garrett's Dido... one of her finest assumptions at the Coliseum' *Times*

'outstanding singing... tremendous playing' *Evening Standard*

'enthralling from start to finish' *Financial Times*

May 12 | 15 | 18 | 21 | 28 June 3 | 7 | 10 at 7.00pm

Box Office 071 836 3161

London Coliseum, St Martin's Lane, London WC2

This new production is supported by ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA TRUST



DANCE

## Method in their bold madness

CeDeCe  
Riverside

There is something attractively disarming about a company that introduces itself to London with a work called *The Truth Is That We Are All Mad*. CeDeCe (the name is an acronym for Companhia Danca Contemporanea) is a new company; it grew only last year out of a school at Setúbal, near Lisbon, and so far its seven dancers are all young women, simply because men have not yet been available.

This puts limitations on the dramatic possibilities, but the programme manages a reasonable variety in spite of that. Two works by Olga Roriz neatly sidestep the problem by dispensing with any confrontations. *Crossing* is a solo, to Bulgarian songs, and although *Passages - Part 1* (to Philip Glass and Ravi Shankar) is for two dancers, it is more realistically seen as a double solo than a duet.



Rigorous steps: Patricia Henriques in *Crossing*

which lives up to its title, *Dis-Figure-Action*, by the energy and eccentricity of the movement. Most of the dancers take three or four roles during the evening, but all sustain their performances at a very presentable level. Without offering any blinding revelations CeDeCe shows that it is starting out hopefully on a well-planned path. The season is sponsored by Portugal 600 and the town of Setúbal.

JOHN PERCIVAL

HILARY FINCH

## SWAN LAKE

New and Old by The Lasham Trust



13, 15, 19, 27, 29 MAY  
2, 7 JUNE AT 7.30PM  
15, 29 MAY AT 2.30PM

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**BBC1**

7.00 **Ceejay** (543332)  
7.25 **News and weather** (1556717)  
7.30 **Pinechick** Animated adventures of the wooden puppet who longed to be human (5770040) 7.50 **The All New Popeye Show** Three cartoons (5767578) 8.10 **The Girl From Tomorrow** Episode three of the 12-part children's science fiction drama (5767578) 8.30 **Cartoon** (5767578) 8.50 **Cartoon** (5767578) 9.00 **Parallels** Includes magic from Paul Zeno, a visit from the *Thunderbirds* puppets and *Home and Away* actor Richard Norton. Plus music from World Apart, Janet Jackson and Grinland (5767578) 9.55 **Flora & Uge** A live action and animated adventure, narrated by and starring Rolf Harris, about a 13-year-old English boy who is deported to Australia for aiding and abetting a highwayman. Directed by Yoram Gross (4893682) 10.15 **Weather** (8154668)  
12.15 **Grandstand** introduced by Steve Rider. The line-up is subject to alteration: 12.20 Football Focus: Bob Wilson and Alan Hansen look forward to the season's final weekend of league matches, 1.00 News: 1.05 Cricket: Ted Dexter previews the season: 1.10, 1.50 and 2.20 **Bedstraw Horse Trials**: 1.40, 2.10 and 2.40 **Racing** from Lingfield Park: 2.50 and 4.00 **Golf**: The Benson and Hedges International from St Mellon, Cornwall: 3.50 Football half-times: 4.35 Final Score (5878576). Wales: 2.50-4.35 **SWALEC Cup Final** (5878576) 5.15 **News with Philip Hayton**. Weather (581653) 5.25 **Regional News and Sport** (581653)  
5.30 **Jazz in the City** Among those for whom Sir James lives it is a ten-year-old girl from Cheshire and her dog to play in the Calmington snow, a 90-year-old Dordland pianist to play with Kenny Ball and his band, and a grandfather from Pontefract, Newcastle, who unveils a personal weather forecast from Suzanne Chaston (581653)  
6.05 **The Main Event** Frantic quiz game show presented by Chris Tarrant. Two home-based families compete against each other with help from studio-bound celebrities. This week's guests are Tony, Fern and Jasper Britton, Daniel Bull, Jonathan Munn and Judy Sudon. (581653)  
6.55 **Film: D.A.R.Y.L.** (1985) starring Mary Beth Hurt and Michael McKean. Fantasy drama about a childless couple who adopt a boy who turns out to be a highly sophisticated robot. Directed by Simon Winzer. (Ceejay) (5397931)  
8.30 **Blind of a Lifetime** Tracy thinks it is about time she experienced what her incarcerated husband is going through and builds a prison cell in the attic (5397931) (Ceejay) (7885)



Two-timing: David Horovitch as Hugo (9.00pm)

9.00 **Westbeech** (Ceejay) (5397931)  
9.50 **News with Nicholas Mitchell** (Ceejay) (458595)  
10.10 **That's Life!** Esther Rantzen's consumer investigations series. (Ceejay) (539311)  
10.50 **Match of the Day** introduced by Desmond Lynam. Highlights from the Premier League's last weekend of the season. The commentators are Barry Davies and Tony Gubba (543330). Northern Ireland: Match of the Day Northern Ireland (543330)  
11.40 **Film: The Driver** (1978) (5397931) (Ceejay) (618576). Northern Ireland. 12.00 **Film: The Driver** (1978) (5397931) (Ceejay) (618576)  
1.00am **Weather** (4710335)

**BBC2**

7.05 **Open University: Maths - Finding a Formula** (5440205) 7.30 **Physics: Ideal Gases** (5884352) 7.55 **Oceanography: Currents** (5788059) 8.20 **Biology: Insect Hormones** (1454788) 8.45 **The Leaping Horse** by John Constable (5880224) 9.10 **Technology: The March of Aluminium** (1974972) 9.35 **Chemistry - Elements Discovered** 10.00 **Human: Under the Skin** (5880224) 10.20 **Managing School: Making Teams Work** (1095514) 10.55 **Women's Studies: Public Space, Public Work** (3349553) 11.15 **Industrial Change - from Public to Private** (9075243) 12.05 **Language Development - Ways with Words** (9325868) 12.30 **Managing School: Making Teams Work** (1095514) 12.55 **Modern Art - Picasso's Colours** (1467856) 1.20 **Managing Customer and Client Relations** (8497488) 1.45 **Biology: Hearing the Call** (2506780) 2.10 **Industrialisation in Malaysia** (4950785) 2.35 **Literature in the Market Place** (5217082)  
3.00 **Film: The Invisible Man** (1933, b/w). (Ceejay) See Choice (5278021)  
4.10 **The Sky at Night** Patrick Moore explains what there is to see for the amateur urban astronomer (5278021) (Ceejay)  
4.30 **The Bedstraw Horse Trials**. The closing stages of the cross-country section of the competition (5278021) (Ceejay)  
5.45 **Rugby Union: The Middlesex Sevens**. Chris Rea introduces highlights of the earlier rounds and live coverage of the final (5776788)  
7.00 **100 Greatest Sporting Moments**. Highlights of the Coronation Year cup final between Blackpool and Bolton Wanderers. The star of the match, Sir Stanley Matthews, reminisces with Barry Davies (5776788)  
7.15 **News with Philip Hayton**. Sport and weather (782595)  
7.30 **Saturday**. Huw Edwards with news from the House of Commons select committees. (Ceejay) (137)  
8.00 **Have I Got News For You**. A repeat of yesterday's edition of the irreverent topical news quiz chaired by Angus Deayton (5392)



Musical Journey: Bob Dylan's song (8.30pm)

8.30 **Tales of Rock 'n' Roll: Highway 61 Revisited**. (Ceejay) (5397931)  
9.30 **The Second Helms: A New Generation** (colour and b/w). Episode four of Edgar Reitz's 13-part film epic and it's now 1961 and the relationship between Hermann and Clarissa has deteriorated. In German with English subtitles (549008)  
11.10 **Film: Catch-22** (1970) starring Alan Arkin, Richard Benjamin, Jo Voight and Martin Sheen. A faithful adaptation of Joseph Heller's black comedy set in 1944 on an American Air Force base in the Mediterranean about an officer's efforts to escape the carnage by trying to be certified mentally insane. With Orson Welles and Martin Balsam. Directed by Mike Nichols (5012255). Ends at 1.15

**VideoPhase and the Video PlusCodes**  
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**BBC2, 8.30pm**  
**Tales of Rock 'n' Roll: Highway 61 Revisited**  
Highway 61 runs north-south through the United States from the Canadian border to New Orleans. It was famously celebrated in song by Bob Dylan, who was born in one Highway 61 town and grew up in another. The road yields many other musical stories. Elvis Presley lived on the highway for four years, the great blues singer Bessie Smith died on it. A discursive, inconsequential film pulls in all these elements, as well as recalling that Martin Luther King was assassinated near where Highway 61 passes through Memphis. The emphasis, however, is on the young Dylan. If the potted biography of his early years contains nothing new, it contributes to a pleasing ramble through American popular music.

**Driven: getaway man Ryan O'Neal (BBC1, 11.40pm)**  
**The Driver**  
BBC1, 11.40pm  
Walter Hill's thriller about a getaway driver (Ryan O'Neal) and the detective (Bruce Dern) trying to hunt him down is notable because none of its characters has names. They are known only as The Driver, The Detective, The Player (a compulsive gambler, played by Isabelle Adjani) and so on. It is a gimmick or a stroke of originality depending on your view. This is a film that originates in the imagination. It is cold, pretentious and empty. Devotes to a stirring battle of wits between two unyielding professionals, realised in a spare, enigmatic style which makes evocative use of bleak urban landscapes and has one of the most effective car chases since *Bullitt*.

**The Invisible Man**  
BBC2, 3.00pm  
Out come the head bandages and the dark glasses for the early sound version of the H.G. Wells tale of a reclusive stranger and strange happenings in an English village. Claude Rains plays him but since an invisible man is just that, he has to rely mainly on his splendid voice. Directed by James Whale, the Englishman who made *Frankenstein*, and scripted by R.C. Sheriff of *Journey's End*, the film is notable for its intelligence and lightness of touch. At times it is almost a comedy, although the film is not a comedy. The scientist theme, darker forces are never far away. The subject has since spawned many other but Whale's Hollywood classic continues to outlast them all.

**Westbeech: Young and Shingle**  
BBC1, 9.00pm  
The seaside saga reaches the halfway stage and it is time for a progress report. So many BBC dramas have received the thumbs-down recently, from *Trainer* to *Eldorado* and *A Year in Provence*, that it would be good to applaud a winner. *Westbeech* is not yet that. Neither very good, nor very bad, its dramatic greatness is echoed in the glum weather which seems to dog the location scenes. The ingredients, family and business rivalry spiced with extra-marital hanky-panky, look promising but fail to spark. You have to blame the writing. Trying to be witty, the two-timing Hugo observes that a woman's handbag is like her mind: small, cluttered and used to belong to a crocodile. It is hardly Oscar Wilde.

**ITV LONDON**

6.00 **GHTV** (522598)  
9.25 **Glenn** S. The first of a new series of the young people's entertainment show, presented by Lewis MacLeod and Jenny Powell. Among those providing the music are Sonia and Let Loose. Also on the programme are Marti Pellow and Tony Cunningham of Wet Wet Wet. *EastEnders* Sean Connolly and an army dog display team (572888)  
11.30 **TV Chart Show**. The *Video Vixen* features the Dave Clark Five with their hit "Glad All Over" (572888)  
12.30 **Movies**. *Movies*. The week's releases reviewed (1777)  
1.00 **News with Dermot Murnaghan**. Weather (7740502) 1.05 **London Today** and weather (7740502)  
1.10 **Rugby Union: Worthington National Tens 1993** Introduced from Gloucester by Jim Rosenthal. The commentator is Alistair Hignell (522144)  
2.10 **The A-Team**. Pure-Dee Poole. The indestructible quartet are hired to break up a dangerous moonshine operation (572775)  
3.00 **Film: Chips**. *The War Dog* (1980). The conclusion of the Walt Disney adventure about a young dog assigned to the army during the second world war. Directed by Eric Kaplan (535658)  
3.55 **WCV World Wide Wrestling** (500053)  
4.40 **News with Dermot Murnaghan**. Weather (5177585)  
5.00 **London Tonight**. Sport and weather (5808576)  
5.10 **The London Match Special**. Highlights of this afternoon's First division promotion clash at Upton Park, between West Ham United and Cambridge United (544021)  
6.00 **Film: The Sleepers** (1988) starring Sidney Poitier and River Phoenix. Espionage drama about an American high school teenager whose world is turned upside down after he is informed by an FBI agent that his parents are Russian "sleepers", men who will be activated by the KGB. Directed by Richard Benjamin (11717)  
7.30 **You've Been Framed!** Home video disasters introduced by Jeremy Beadle (5) (563)  
8.00 **The Bill**. By Hook or by Crook. DS Roach takes matters into his own hands after the courts refuse to commit a violent prisoner. (Telecast) (3446)  
8.30 **London's Evening News**. Five-Channel drama series (5) (Telecast) (7801)  
9.30 **News with Dermot Murnaghan**. Weather (463427)



In the Deep South: Gere and Basinger (9.50pm)

9.50 **Film: No Mercy** (1986) starring Richard Gere and Demi Moore. Thriller about a Chicago policeman in Louisiana State looking for the killer of his partner. He falls for a Cajun beauty who happens to have been "sold" to the gangland boss he is looking for. Directed by Richard Pearce. (Telecast) (5273508)  
11.55 **The 2nd Club**. The first of the latest music and comedy series from London's Hackney Empire (5) (541096)  
12.55 **The Big E**. Magazine series for young Europeans (5) (410496)  
1.50 **Muller and Mueller**. Houston-based police officers drama series (525106)  
2.50 **Basketball**. The American NBA league (5802002)  
3.50 **The New Music**. Includes David Bowie discussing his latest album *Black Tie, White Noise* (1503248)  
4.50 **BP4M**. News from the dance music scene (5) (570517) 5.30 **ITN Morning News** (37609)

**CHANNEL 4**

6.00 **The Wonderful Wizard of Oz** (5) (8039021) 8.25 **Spiff and Hercules**. Cat and dog cartoon (5825953) 6.35 **Alfred J. Kwak**. Adventures of a musical duck (5887779) 7.00 **Paddington** (5120392) 7.05 **Kid 'n' Play**. Animation (5824954) 7.35 **King Arthur and the Knights of Justice**. Round the world cartoon adventures (5818359) 8.00 **Betty's Bunch**. Episode three of the 13-part New Zealand drama series (5) (87040) 8.30 **World Tennis**. Part six (56311)  
9.00 **News** (7345798) 9.15 **Channel 4 Racing: The Morning Line** (7894089) 10.00 **Trans World Sport** (6408)  
11.00 **Gazzetta Football Italia**. A preview of Italy's world cup match against Switzerland and tomorrow's five game between Inter Milan and Lazio (44224)  
12.00 **Sign On**. Australian hearing children talk about their experiences and emotions about having deaf parents (57427)  
12.30 **Keweenaw**. Episode two of the 26-part drama series from Pakistan. In Urdu with English subtitles (43791)  
1.00 **Film: Three Coins in the Fountain** (1954). The first of the afternoon's two films starring Clifton Webb. This romantic comedy is one of the survivors of three American women living in Rome. With Dorothy Malone, Jean Peters and Maggie McNamara. Directed by Jean Negulesco. (Telecast) (5413013)  
2.55 **Film: Cheaper by the Dozen** (1950) starring Clifton Webb, Myrna Loy and Jeanne Crain. Domestic comedy, based on fact, about the life of a time and motion expert, his wife and 12 children. Directed by Walter Lang (552788)  
4.25 **Bicycle Symphony**. An animated bicycle ride, set to music (7132243)  
4.35 **The Northumbrian Challenge**. The final race of road-running championship, through the streets of Alnwick, introduced by Steve Carr (1781514)  
5.05 **Brookside**. Episode 11. (Telecast) (5) (2272478)  
6.30 **Right to Reply**. Two persons are challenged over the views on pop music that he expounded on Tuesday's *Without Walls*, and why should Channel 4's viewers in Scotland have to watch *Streetlife*, about the English legal system? (791)  
7.00 **A Week in Politics**. William Wadsworth discusses the forthcoming White Paper on the environment. There are also post-mortems on the Newbury by-election result and the local council elections (5993)



Sledge break: dog-tired in Antarctica (8.00pm)

8.00 **Adventures: Transantarctica**. The first of a two-part documentary about a multinational expedition across Antarctica from August 1989 to March 1990 (5). (Telecast) (5717)  
9.00 **The Belterbecke Affair**. The last in the comedy drama series by Alan Plater, starring James Bolam and Barbara Flynn (5). (Telecast) (5953)  
10.00 **Drop the Dead Donkey**. Delightful topical comedy series set in a television newsroom (5) (5) (58156)  
10.30 **Film: Time of Miracles** (1930) starring Padraig Mike Macdonagh and Daphne Markham. Powerful character study about the loss of communion in a small Yorkshire village. Directed by Gordon Fleche. In Serbo-Croat with English subtitles (5771427)  
12.25am **Evening Shade**. American comedy series starring Bud Reynolds (5) (5) (5027828)  
12.35 **The Harp in the South**. Episode four of the six-part drama about the lives of an Irish-Australian family during the postwar years (5) (5465441). Ends 1.55

**SATELLITE**

**SKY ONE**  
6.00am *Car 54, Where Art Thou?* (59040)  
6.30 *Pin Tin Tin* (59099) 7.00 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 7.20 *WWF Superstars* (74089)  
7.50 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 8.00 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 8.10 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 8.20 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 8.30 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 8.40 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 8.50 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 9.00 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 9.10 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 9.20 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 9.30 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 9.40 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 9.50 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 10.00 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 10.10 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 10.20 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 10.30 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 10.40 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 10.50 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 11.00 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 11.10 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 11.20 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 11.30 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 11.40 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 11.50 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 12.00 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 12.10 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 12.20 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 12.30 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 12.40 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 12.50 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 1.00 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 1.10 *Pin Factory* (5911833) 1.20 *Pin Factory* 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DAVID FLUSFEDEH PREVIEW THE BEST OF NEXT WEEK'S TELEVISION

# Appetites for sin, sex and sumo

## Harnessing Peacocks

Tomorrow, ITV, 9pm  
Adapted by Andrew Davies from Mary Wesley's novel, this is the craziest mix of social comedy, family drama and early 1970s porn film (but without the sex). It starts in tears, as young Hebe (played by Serena Scott Thomas), pregnant by an unknown father, runs away from her crusty, brutal family. Next scene, 12 years later: her boy is at an expensive school, and Hebe — blonde and beautiful with a knowing innocent smile on her face and a silly airport melody on the soundtrack — pays the bills by catering to the palates of lonely old women ("Two whole blissful grumpy weeks," trills one) and the sexual passions of frustrated men.

The story tips merrily about from Devon to Italy to the Scilly Isles. All the characters seem to have popped out from entirely different worlds, but they meet happily in a miscellany of styles and genres. Peter Davison plays the gentle antiques dealer who is after Hebe. John Mills is his benevolent mentor, who somehow seems to know everything about everyone (and what is the sex secret of the Hôtel d'Angleterre in Paris, where the John Mills character seems to have taken every Home Counties' matron and bawdy aunt for a week of unsurpassed pleasure at some point in their lives?). The plot unfolds symmetrically and happily. Everyone gets his or her just deserts. And the



There are two clear highlights of the week:

**Harnessing Peacocks** (tomorrow), a wonderfully silly made-for-television film that tries to cram everything in and somehow gets away with it; and **40 Minutes** (Tuesday), about three British Sumo wrestlers abroad and adrift in

Tokyo. They are also good at cramming everything in — they are dab hands at demolishing fry-ups — but it is after that their troubles begin.

highlight is the hilarious performance by Nicholas Le Prevost as the frenetic suitor, Mungo — the speed of his Jaguar tearing through country hedgerows represents his desperate sexual urges — who is the mouthpiece for some precise social observation ("Should we have a drink in there? Would that be a thing, do you think?")

**Maiden Voyages: Belize** Tuesday, Channel 4, 8.30pm  
Maureen is 78 and Margaret is 77. They are both widows, they share a bungalow in Wembley, and for the past 28 years they have spent as much time as they can travelling together (which they finance

by working in shops and doing paper rounds). This journey has them going to the Central American republic of Belize, where they wander around the capital ("They say if you sit here on a Wednesday you will see the prime minister," "Oh, look! There he is!"), go snorkelling over the coral reef at San Pedro, and finally visit the Belize rainforest, of which they buy 11 acres to protect from future development.

They are a delightful pair ("we're everybody's grandmother"), usually kitted out identically in boots, shorts, T-shirts, a rucksack each, and a sunhat. They are delighted by each new thing they encounter ("Goodness," says Margaret at the sight of a Mayan ruin: "Goodness," says Maureen, equally impressed), and love each other's company, even if they good-humouredly bicker from time to time — "Oh, it's raining again," "It is a rainforest, Maureen."

**40 Minutes: Three Big Men** Tuesday, BBC2, 9.50pm  
A hilarious, fascinating and occasionally depressing film about the British sumo world team competing in Tokyo. Steve, the British champion, is the most serious about the sport ("we've got to win at any cost"). He is a large balding man with dainty table manners and a sharp face that looks as if it belongs to a much thinner person ("I don't have that many close friends — I like to think I don't have any friends"). George is a shy Geordie with tattoos covering most of his body. Until he discovered martial arts he was a bullied, miserable child. Terry is a London cabbie. He has great respect for the regi-

men required for sumo — "the training is eating. Eating and sleeping... that's the sort of life I love." Terry suffers from back problems but managed to come third in the British sumo championships — although that is not as big an achievement as it sounds because Steve, George and Terry were the only competitors who turned up for it.

They welcome the trip to Japan, Terry especially, because it breaks up the monotony of waiting for his wife to have a baby. But when they get there, they do not have quite as good a time as they expected. George's tattoos are greeted with horror and laughter by the Japanese who associate them only with gangsters, and he is forced to hide them and himself away. Terry is at first happy with Tokyo ("it's like London, except for the Japanese, of course") but he is suffering with his back and he soon becomes bitterly homesick ("I want a bag of chips," he says, after a large local meal, and happily discovers a Kentucky Fried Chicken franchise). Steve proudly spins his saloon-bar charmer's line, but instead of encouraging international relations, it gets them kicked out of the bar.

They get through their qualifying bouts, but then come a cropper in the main competition, despite Steve's tactic of filling Terry up with sake before his match. Steve is bitterly disgusted ("they let me down, to be honest"), and Terry, sake, back and all, has enough trouble getting in and out of the ring, let alone concentrating on his fight, which he contests in a stiffly uncommitted pat-a-cake way. It is funny to watch these men, presented to us as likeable grotesques, but depressing too, in the way that they act as a gross parody of the Englishman abroad.

**True Stories: Children of Fate** Thursday, Channel 4, 9.35pm  
In 1961, two Americans filmed a documentary about the Palermo slum of Cortile Casino, a place of ramshackle houses and huts divided by a railway track, which had a terrifyingly high rate of infant mortality, where one water fountain served the needs of 300 people, and fights between mobs of toothless women would break out whenever a political party in need of votes would throw out free food to supplement the regular diet of stale pasta.

Now the son of one of the original film-makers has returned to Sicily and caught up



War paint: the Japanese are appalled by British sumo wrestler George's "gangster" tattoos

with the family that was featured in the original documentary. This film, which includes generous footage of the earlier one, is the result. In 1961, Angela was shown buying her eldest daughter. Thirty years later, another daughter is dying, this time of cancer. But it is not all heart-breaking. Angela has a tough dignity in the face of what most Sicilians would see as a bad fate. She has managed to leave Luigi, her demented violent husband, and she does her best to keep her children away from crime and the Mafia. Cortile Casino was demolished in 1968; it was an arena of crime, violence, prostitution and disease. But now, its former inhabitants look back with sentimental longing to their time there: "I'd give an arm to go back," says one.

**Under the Sun: Monday's Girls** Thursday, BBC2, 9.40pm  
It is an odd talent that Monday's Girls has — to be able to detect transgressors from chastity by the shape of their nipples. But once a year this talent comes into its own. The

iria initiation into womanhood dates back to the 13th century and is still practised in its original form in the Nigerian island town of Ogozoma. First comes the body-adornment of indigo paint and charcoal, and then the bare-breasted display in the town square, where Monday's Girls will employ her odd talent. Then the girls will have their legs loosely bound in copper rings and go off to spend five weeks in the fattening rooms, where they are waited on, pampered, massaged, play cards, do some dancing and get a little bored. Except this year only 13 of the 14 girls make it to the fattening rooms. Azkiye, daughter of one of the bowler-hatted chiefs, and student of music in the city, does not think it a good thing to show her breasts in public. So while the other sashay gracefully in turn to receive their certificate of chastity (the nervous ones calmed by strong beer provided by their fathers), Azkiye sits inside arguing with her family and then leaves the next day — in disgrace — to return to the city. This beautiful programme

shows all the stages of the five-week ritual, culminating in the final moonlit dance to the drums, witnessed by most of the town. "I'm not fat, but I've grown up," says one happy initiate. "There are some traditions people should forget," says Azkiye.

**Public Eye: Hostage to Fortune** Friday, BBC2, 8pm  
Richard Broady used to be the manager of a bureau de change. Late one night, on his way back from work, two men posing as police stopped his car before he had got to his house. They drove him back to his workplace, at gunpoint, telling him what the third member of the gang would do to his girlfriend if he failed to co-operate. He co-operated. He gave them the money and was dumped in nearby woodland with his hands tied.

A convicted armed robber cheerfully explains: "The more security they make, then you've got to find another way of getting that money." In the face of increasingly sophisticated security systems, the way, increasingly, is kidnapping.

## BEST FILMS

### TODAY

**The Invisible Man** 1933, US (BBC2, 3pm)  
**The Driver** 1978, US (BBC1, 11.40pm)

### TOMORROW

**Cover Girl** 1944, US (C4, 12.45pm)  
**Car Ballou** 1965, US (BBC1, 3pm)

### MONDAY

**Tender Mercies** 1982, US (BBC2, 9pm)

### TUESDAY

**Scanners** 1981, Can (C4, 10pm)

### THURSDAY

**The Long Hot Summer** 1958, US (BBC1, 1.50pm)

### FRIDAY

**Things to Come** 1936, GB (C4, 11.10pm)

## BEST SPORTS

### TODAY

**Badminton Horse Trials** (BBC1, 1.10pm)

### TOMORROW

**Grandstand: Spanish Grand Prix** (BBC2, 12.30pm)

### MONDAY

**Standing Room Only** (BBC2, 6.50pm)

### WEDNESDAY

**Open Space: Sit Down and Shut Up** (BBC2, 7.40pm)

## SCHLOCK

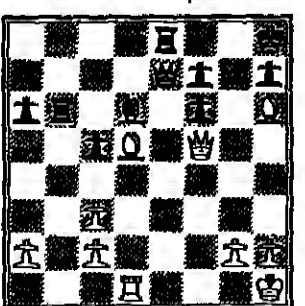
**Rides** (Friday, BBC1, 7.30pm)

## WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is taken from the game Sokolov - Holzl, Czechoslovakia 1991. White has successfully broken up the black kingside and now finds a cunning move to finish off. What did he play?

Send your answer on a postcard with your name and address to: *The Times*, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. The first three correct answers drawn on Thursday next week will win a British Chess Magazine book. The answer and the winners will be printed in *The Times* on the following



Saturday.  
Solution to last Saturday's competition: 1 Rd8+. The winners are: R. Gedling, Epsom; F. Davidson, Doreham; D. Orton, London N12.

## WORD-WATCHING

By PHILIP HOWARD

### ZAFTIG

- a. Plump and sexy
- b. Scottish children's game
- c. Off one's rocker

### SHAMMA

- a. A spurious master's degree
- b. A Turkish hors d'oeuvre
- c. A loose robe

### DRAWCANSIR

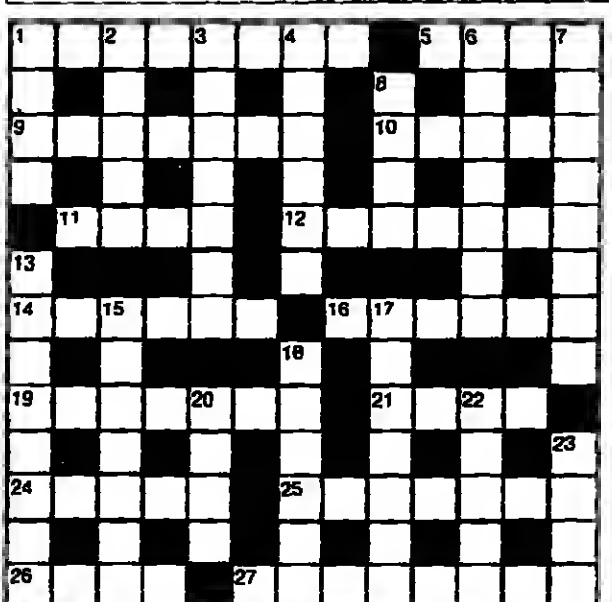
- a. A blustering bully
- b. A species of goose
- c. Chain body armour

### EUPORISTON

- a. A fordable river
- b. A common medicine
- c. A simple syllogism

Answers on page 13

## CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 3091



### ACROSS

- 1 Cosmetic improvement (8)
- 5 Cain's brother (4)
- 9 Sovereign's locum period (7)
- 10 Heavy wool cloth (5)
- 11 Unruly child (4)
- 12 Roman sea god (7)
- 14 Stem division (6)
- 16 Wall candle bracket (6)
- 17 Jury decision (7)
- 21 Hard currency (4)
- 24 Nautical behind (5)
- 25 Cooking room (7)
- 26 Mislaid (4)
- 27 Gathering (8)

### DOWN

- 1 Road split (4)
- 2 Tobacco leaf roll (5)
- 3 Madman (7)
- 4 Hurrying (6)
- 6 Arab nomad (7)
- 7 Delayed going (8)
- 8 Smack (4)
- 13 Especially (5,3)
- 15 Lung passages (7)
- 17 Divided oven dish (7)
- 18 Wager (6)
- 20 To interior (4)
- 22 Indian 'sir' (5)
- 23 Singular (4)

### SOLUTIONS TO NO 3090

ACROSS: 1 Tag along 7 Caper 8 Edinburgh 9 Lap 10 Rite 11 Mammal 13 Martin 14 Mess up 19 Classy 20 Pair 21 Tar 23 Foundling 24 Revue 25 Collagen  
DOWN: 1 Theorem 2 Glitter 3 Lobe 4 Norman 5 Spot 6 Triple 7 Chimney 12 Giraffe 15 Sharing 16 Paragon 17 Escudo 18 Start 19 Crave 22 Idol

**CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS:** The Times Concise Crosswords Books 1 & 2 £5.25 each, Book 3 & 4 £6.25 each. Also The Times Jumble Crosswords Book 1 (cycled £4.99, Book 2 (cycled £5.99, Concise Book 1 £5.99, The Times Crosswords — Books 14, 15 & 16 New Book £6.25 each. Prices inc p&hp (UK). Cheques to Adams Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE15 5QW. Delivery to 8 days. For details of all Times Crossword books and software, call Adams Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hrs) or CDS Domestics on 0202 890 000.

# A comic, but not a stripper

Funny business with someone close to the Comic Strip



KEITH Allen is nothing to do with the Comic Strip. "I'm nothing to do with the Comic Strip," he says. "I'm not in it, I'm just close to it — mainly through Peter Richardson."

However, if you ask anyone who the Comic Strip actually is, everyone will say: "Rik and Ade. Dawn and Jenny. Peter and Keith." They are the Comic Strip. The Comic Strip is them. Allen is either being overly modest, or he has had a flaming row with all of them and this is the tail-end of a high-powered sulk.

So what is his view of Comic Strip? "Well, I think that a year or so ago, I would not have been alone in saying that the Comic Strip had come to a natural end — or maybe even overstayed its welcome," he says, busily tucking into a sausage sandwich. He answers every question briskly, so the interview does not intrude too greatly on his breakfast. "But now I think it would be a great shame if there wasn't another series. I think this particular grouping of Comic Strip could do some really great stuff."



Talent contestant Keith Allen of the Comic Strip

seven or eight years. The drugs were stronger in those days," he says fondly, laddling more brown sauce on to his plate.

The Comic Strip was founded in the early 1980s. Peter Richardson started doing stand-up at Raymond's Revue Bar in sleaziest Soho; so when it came for a group name to be found, "Comic Strip" jumped to mind and nestled there like a little puppy. Allen had got into comedy because he was "bored out of my mind. I was doing theatre in Stockport, which was dull, so I came back to London and started a band called the Atoms — our rhythm guitarist couldn't play guitar. Brilliant. We only played talent contests, that was our thing, our weird thing. We kept winning. But before you could say 'jackboots', I had this fascist following. Reactionary right-wing skinheads."

Which was? "Well, I just got up on stage, looked at the audience and said, 'You're a bunch of wankers. What are you going to do about it?'"

Did you get beaten up? "A bloke threw a bottle at me while I was playing a piano, and it completely

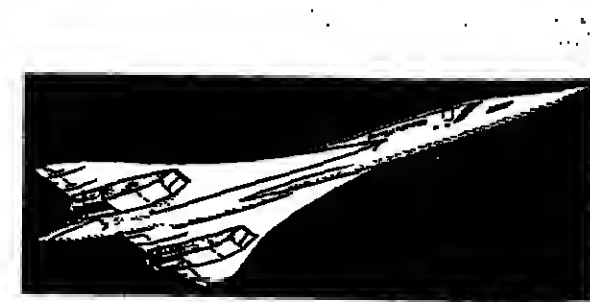
missed me and smashed in the face of a guy who was just about to pour a pint of beer over my head. So this guy was standing there, crying, his girlfriend was screaming, and as they led the guy offstage, he shouted at me, 'You've ruined my Christmas.' Now what was all that about?" Allen squints into the sun quizzically.

So does he think comedians have it easier now? "I've got no idea," he says blithely. "I don't go to comedy clubs. I don't watch television... Television comedy is changing now, anyway," he continues. "You're more likely to get a situation-based comedy now — a la *Absolutely Fabulous* — than you are to have *Saturday Night Live* or any programmes that profile new comedians."

Allen is happy being a mixture of things, however. As well as the Comic Strip, he is trying to lose two stone to play an Aids victim; plus he is directing a UB40 video. Allen has always had strong ties with the music industry — with New Order he co-wrote England's World Cup theme, which was at number one for months.

"You'll, well, this year I'm putting all my efforts into writing the Welsh World Cup song, because I don't think England has got much of a chance, do you?" "Will it be written in Welsh?" "Haven't decided yet. But I want Anthony Hopkins introducing it, Tom Jones singing it, the Manic Street Preachers doing the music, and the Welsh male voice choir doing the 'sh-is-is-bis'."

Allen looks up from the wreckage of his breakfast and grins. "That'd be good."



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